Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-032
Friday
19 February 1993

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-032 *19 February 1993*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

G-3, Central American Presidents Meet in Caracas 1
Presidents Send Letter to Clinton *[Caracas Radio, TV]* 1
Venezuelan Official Discusses Meeting *[Caracas TV]* 1
Venezuela's Perez on Trade Agreement *[Caracas TV]* 2
Presidents Discuss Free Trade Agreement *[Caracas TV]* 2
Perez, Callejas Hold News Conference *[Caracas Radio, TV]* 3
Venezuela, Colombia Sign Accord With CACM *Santa Fe de Bogota TV[]* 7
SELA Official on Nonmember Countries' Integration *[Havana Radio]* 7
CAF Signs Credit Agreement With Barbados *[CANA]* 7
Banana Exporting Countries Meet in Ecuador *[Quito Radio]* 8

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Castro Discusses Electoral Unity, Nominees *[Havana Radio]* 10
Alarcon Calls Elections 'Most Democratic' *[Havana Radio]* 10
Alarcon, Lage Respond To Questions on Elections *[Havana Radio]* 10
Electorate, Polling Station Figures Provided *[Havana Radio]* 11
Commentary Urges Unity in Ideas, Votes *[Havana Radio]* 11
Cienfuegos Candidates Meet With Local Residents *[Havana Radio]* 12
Workers Union Demands Release of President *[NOTIMEX]* 12
Prospects for National Citrus Industry Viewed *[Havana Radio]* 13
Minister Links Revolution With Health Achievments *[Havana Radio]* 13
Ceremony Held To Create Scientific Hub in Cienfuegos *[Havana TV]* 13
Plan Allows Students To Pursue Higher Education *[Havana TV]* 14
Bilateral Aviation Agreement Signed With Brazil *[Havana Radio]* 14
Asturian Solidarity Donation Arrives in Havana *[Havana Radio]* 14
* Challenges Require Preservation of Values, Ethics *[TRABAJADORES 11 Jan]* 14
* Fidel's 'Exceptional' Qualities Extolled *[JUVENTUD REBELDE 3 Jan]* 15
* Cyclists Surveyed Concerning Problems *[JUVENTUD REBELDE 10 Jan]* 16

Dominica

Government Warns Latin America on Banana Issue *[CANA]* 17
Charles: Time Right for End of U.S. Cuba Embargo *[CANA]* 17

Haiti

Transporter Ship Sinks During Storm 17 Feb 18
Death Toll Estimated at 800 *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18
Searches Continue *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18
Death Toll 'Could Go Over 1,000' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18
Hospital Receives Survivors *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 19
Man Hijacks Domestic Airliner 18 Feb *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 19
14 People Said on Board *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 19
Parliamentary Activities Continue at Standstill *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 19

Trinidad and Tobago

Rumors of Coup Halt Plans for National Strike *[Bonaire Radio]* 20
Government Suspends Pay Increases Granted in Jan *[CANA]* 20

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Calderon, Ecuadoran President Sign Declaration *[San Jose Radio]* 21

El Salvador

FMLN Says Missiles Destroyed as 'Sign of Goodwill' 21
One-Third of Missiles Said Destroyed *[San Salvador TV]* 21
Surface-to-Air Missiles Said Destroyed *[San Salvador Radio]* 21
FMLN Leader States Opposition to Death Penalty *[San Salvador Radio]* 22
Pacas on Central American Meeting With EC *[San Salvador TV]* 22

Honduras

Police Security Chief Presents Report on Crime *[LA TRIBUNA 18 Feb]* 23
Alleged Businessman Killer Claims Military Orders *[NOTIMEX]* 23

Nicaragua

Peasants Say New Armed Group Organizing in North *[Managua Radio]* 24
Democratic Party Deputy Said To Bribe CPT *[Managua Radio]* 24
Swedish Cooperation To Assist Judicial Branch *[Managua TV]* 24

Panama

Ford Threatens To Dismiss Striking Workers *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 18 Feb]* 25
Minister on Negotiations for Kidnappees' Release *[Panama City TV]* 25
Legislature Approves ARI Bill in Third Debate *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 19 Feb]* 26
Panel Discusses Interoceanic Region Authority Bill *[Panama City TV]* 26
Russian Commerce Official Discusses Economic Ties *[LA PRENSA 18 Feb]* 29
Report Investigates Cuban Drug Operations *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 14 Feb]* 31

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil

Senate Approves Fiscal Adjustment Project *[Brasilia Radio]* 33
Ceiling Set for State Enterprise Directors *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 17 Feb]* 33
Franco Displeased Over New Currency Bill *[Brasilia Radio]* 33
'Flexibility' by U.S. Demanded in Negotiations *[Madrid EFE]* 33

Chile

Government 'Optimistic' Over Clinton Measures *[Santiago Radio]* 34
First Supreme Court Hearing in Letelier Case *[Santiago Radio]* 34

Colombia

Police Authorities Identify Car Bomb Terrorists *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 34
Army Commander Says Escobar Remains in Colombia *[NOTIMEX]* 34
Guerrilla Leader Bernardino Captured in Boyaca *[EL NUEVO SIGLO 15 Feb]* 35
Meneses Captured in Santander *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 35
Fortich Captured in Cartagena *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 35
Survey Conducted on Presidential Elections *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 35

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Discusses Aid for Haiti *[NOTICIAS 18 Feb]* 36
Colorados Discuss Possible Consensus Tickets *[NOTICIAS 18 Feb]* 36
Congress Session To Discuss Electoral System *[Asuncion TV]* 37
Plan To Change Electoral System Condemned *[ABC COLOR 18 Feb]* 37
Febrerista Revolutionary Party Faces Crisis *[ABC COLOR 18 Feb]* 37

Peru

Fujimori To Grant Pardons 'Selectively' *[Lima TV]* 38
Officers in Coup Attempt Sentenced *[Lima Radio]* 38
Colombian Subversives Attack Military Checkpoint *[EL COMERCIO 9 Feb]* 39
Ministry Requests Information on Espionage Case *[EL COMERCIO 11 Feb]* 39
Editorial Demands Explanation *[LA REPUBLICA 10 Feb]* 39
Coca Production, Shining Path Links Evaluated *[EXPRESO 5 Feb]* 40
Failure of Coca Eradication Viewed *[EXPRESO 6 Feb]* 41
Petroperu, U.S. Firm Sign Drilling Contract *[Lima TV]* 42

Uruguay

Executive Branch Prepares Bill on Military *[Montevideo Radio]* 42

Suriname

Government Abolishes 25 Feb 'Revolution' Holiday
[Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD 16 Feb] 42

G-3, Central American Presidents Meet in Caracas

Presidents Send Letter to Clinton

PA1202204993 Caracas Radio and TV Networks in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Letter addressed to U.S. President William Jefferson Clinton signed by presidents of the Group of Three and of the Central America nations at the Caracas Hilton Hotel; read by unidentified announcer—live]

[Text] Caracas, 12 February 1993

Dear Mr. President and Friend:

The Central American region has strengthened peace and democracy in the last few years. The progress made thus far has left behind decades of war, confrontation, and instability. Today we can say Central America is experiencing a new and hopeful stage in its history. Nonetheless, this new stage in Central America still requires as much international support and cooperation as before, perhaps even more. The Central American region is a living example of the permanent links between peace, democracy, and development.

The efforts that have been made to overcome the cycle of violence and democratic instability experienced in the past decade need the support of the progress made in the fields of economic and social development. The United States of America has supported these efforts and has carried out specific actions of cooperation to contribute to the region's economic recovery. We do not doubt that the United States also shares the feeling that peace in Central America is indivisible and that the problems affecting any of these countries end up affecting the entire region.

On the occasion of the Presidential Summit held in Managua, Nicaragua, in June 1992, the Central American presidents conveyed to U.S. President George Bush their concern over the delay in the disbursement of foreign assistance already committed to Nicaragua. On that occasion it was mentioned that this delay could endanger the progress made by President Chamorro's administration and lead to a setback with serious consequences in the political, economic, and social spheres not only for Nicaragua but for the entire Central American region.

That is why we are addressing you, to request that you contribute your efforts and attain the total disbursement of the assistance scheduled for Nicaragua in 1992. This will help Nicaragua strengthen its progress in the field of pacification, allow it to continue with the process of incorporating the demobilized groups into productive life, and allow it to continue making progress on the plans for economic stabilization and adjustments that urgently require the reactivation of production and the development of social plans.

We trust you will understand the importance we are assigning to the successful culmination of the important process Nicaragua is experiencing, which will also benefit all in Central America.

Dear Mr. President, please accept our highest consideration and esteem. [applause]

Venezuelan Official Discusses Meeting

PA1202185293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Interview with Central Information Office Director Angel Zambrano by Jose Marcano and Milagros Rodriguez at the Caracas Hilton Hotel—live]

[Text] [Marcano] Director Zambrano, what topics are being broached by the Group of Three [G-3] presidents at the ongoing meeting here in the hotel's grand hall?

[Zambrano] They are discussing commercial issues as well as topics related to politics, culture, and the environment. All actions in those fields require coordination among Venezuela, Mexico, and Colombia. The G-3 countries' strategic position, undoubtedly based on integrationist thought, requires unity of thought and future actions to improve the area's social, economic, and political fields.

[Rodriguez] OCI Director, Venezuela and Colombia have already launched a strong economic opening process. There are rumors, however, that Mexico will present obstacles to the much desired G-3 free trade agreement. Can you comment on this?

[Zambrano] No obstacles will be placed in the way. The simple fact is that Mexico is currently beginning a very important agreement with the United States. Perhaps Mexico's commitments will demand that it maintain a certain position, but it will not be one of indifference to Latin American integration. On the contrary, I believe the experience to be gained with Mexico's agreement with the United States will be very favorable and will further our attainment of a true and certain economic integration in Latin America, as is Venezuela's and President Carlos Andres Perez' desire.

[Marcano] It has also been mentioned that the presidents will discuss other programs and will approve approximately 10 new programs during the G-3 meeting with the six Central American countries. Would you please tell us the programs that will be approved, or at least the most important of the 10 programs to be signed?

[Zambrano] Right. In the past weeks the technical commissions discussed several agreements, not only on economic and commercial matters but, as I said before, on cultural, environmental, and energy-related matters. They also discussed a joint political stance regarding Central America and the Caribbean.

[Rodriguez] Regarding potential commercial relations with Central America, is it possible to reach specific bloc

agreements on trade, for example? I mean, for Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela to reach a bloc agreement with the Central American countries on this issue?

[Zambrano] The six Central American presidents are here to investigate the possibility of reaching agreements that will directly benefit their economies, which, as we know, are currently in a depression. Venezuela confirms its position and willingness to cooperate with the Central American and Caribbean countries, and it is joined in this endeavor by Mexico and Colombia.

[Marcano] We thank OCI Director Angel Zambrano for his comments.

Venezuela's Perez on Trade Agreement

PA1202200993 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 11 Feb 93

[Report by Milagros Rodriguez]

[Text] Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez asserted on 11 February that the negotiations for a free trade agreement between Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela are advancing. He said the technical commissions have already outlined several aspects of the treaty. The president added, however, that it is premature to talk about the possibility of signing the agreement at the current meeting as there are still matters—such as the elimination of import taxes—which cannot be implemented irresponsibly because the countries' economies have to be balanced.

[Begin Perez recording] I am sure the first phase of the Group of Three [G-3] free trade agreement will be signed in the coming months. We are also working on another important matter. We are organizing our trade with Central America. This means Central American countries will enter the integration process and will trade freely with our countries in the future. [end recording]

With regard to Cuba, which remains separated from Latin American and Caribbean economic forums, President Perez expressed his concern and said it is necessary for Cuba to make an effort to enter the integration and cooperation processes that are being furthered in the region. In this respect, the Venezuelan president said the Latin American democratic system is being updated constantly in an attempt to improve it with regional arrangements and decentralization processes furthered in countries such as Venezuela.

Presidents Discuss Free Trade Agreement

PA1402005493 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 12 Feb 93

[Report by Milagros Rodriguez; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The Central American presidents signed a free trade agreement with Colombia and Venezuela, saying that it will allow an increase in trade and will contribute to the region's integration process. The summit meeting concluded on 12 February in Caracas. Milagros Rodriguez has the details.

[Rodriguez] The agreement signed in Caracas by Venezuela, Colombia, and the Central American nations covers a market of 70 million people, 50 million of whom are potential customers for Central American products. The agreement will promote trade and complementary economic relations among Venezuela, Colombia, and Central America. It is also a door leading to the creation of a regional free trade zone.

As Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani sees it, the meeting of the Group of Three [G-3] and Central America allows mechanisms for promoting cooperation to be established. The agreement also allows the countries to look for ways to make productive investments.

[Cristiani] "I think we have found paths of cooperation between Central America and the G-3. In general terms, once the mechanisms are put into place, cooperation levels increase. That is why it is important that Venezuela, Colombia, and Central America have signed this, let us call it a framework agreement. Later we will try to make the agreement that Mexico and Central America signed earlier consistent with this new agreement so we will have one single agreement between the G-3 and Central America.

"We exchanged information on regional problems and discussed possible joint measures to face challenges. I think it is appropriate to face some problems together."

Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano said now that the agreement has been signed, the nations involved will be able to increase their economic cooperation programs. Serrano said Guatemala is already initiating negotiations to place part of its sugar surplus in Venezuela.

[Serrano] "I think this helps the region. I think we have made a great deal of progress and that the G-3 and Central America will soon form a free trade region."

Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro said she was very pleased with the appeal that her Latin American counterparts made during the summit to U.S. President Bill Clinton urging him to speed up the delivery of aid to Nicaragua.

[Chamorro] "Great. Wonderful. May God bless all those who signed this agreement."

[Reporter] "Do you think the agreement, everything that was signed here today, is favorable to the region?"

[Chamorro] "Everything is perfect because we are in solidarity with everyone, with Venezuela, Colombia, with all the Central American countries."

The idea of Central America, Venezuela, and Colombia intensifying an investment process to promote social development prompted a comment from Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon.

[Calderon] "The development of trade relations between our nations will have certain effects."

[Reporter] "What effects?"

[Calderon] "We already have important investments by Venezuelan aluminum enterprises. We could be receiving tourism enterprises. We are already working on this with Mexico and Colombia."

Panamanian President Guillermo Endara said his country will make every effort to move closer to the integration process taking place throughout the region, although he noted that the road ahead is a long one.

[Endara] "We have been participating in another effort to move closer to integration. You may recall that during the military dictatorship the regime established a protectionist and paternalistic system that was the opposite of integration. We are now liberalizing our trade and eliminating custom barriers."

The free trade agreement signed by Venezuela, Colombia, and Central America goes beyond mere trade conceptions. This is the first foreign trade policy tool negotiated by the eight countries.

The agreement signed today will go into effect in June 1993. It implies the immediate release of approximately 500 Central American products to the Colombian and Venezuelan markets.

Perez, Callejas Hold News Conference

PA1302214393 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1706 GMT 12 Feb 93

[News conference by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas moderated by Angel Zambrano, director of the Central Information Office, with local and foreign journalists at the Caracas Hilton Hotel—live]

[Text] [Zambrano] This news conference will be attended by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez on behalf of the Group of Three and Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas on behalf of the Central American nations. Hector Landaeta of EL GLOBO DE VENEZUELA will ask the first question.

[Landaeta] Good afternoon. First of all, on behalf of my colleagues I would like to welcome the presidents of friendly nations, delegations, and journalists from other countries who are visiting us. I would like to ask a question on a subject I am not sure was on the agenda, but which I feel is important. I must say I am a little disappointed because we thought all the presidents would be present. I think my colleagues were expecting them too, but for some reason, the panel suddenly left. My question is basically for the presidents of Venezuela, Mexico, and Colombia. Venezuela and Mexico are leading oil producing countries and Colombia has a great potential for oil exploitation in the Cusiana Oil Well, where British Petroleum has great interests. For a long time, the U.S. Democratic Party has been trying to introduce an oil tax. Bill Clinton hasn't but the Democratic Party has been promoting this idea for a long time. Therefore, we can expect the implementation of oil taxes in the United States in the near future. Should this occur, it could seriously affect regional integration, as it would be very difficult for Venezuela and Mexico to participate in an integration process. My question is: Are the presidents aware of this possibility, and have you been analyzing this idea promoted by the Democratic Party under the leadership of President Bill Clinton? If you are aware of that possibility, what kind of lobbying has been tried in order to prevent, if possible, the implementation of oil taxes, or at least to reduce the catastrophic effects it would have on regional integration efforts?

[Perez] The lobbying mentioned by the journalist by oil producing and export countries is not necessary. The best lobbying on this subject are the negative effects oil taxes would have in the United States. I rule out almost totally the possibility that this idea will prosper in the U.S. Government. Undoubtedly, the U.S. economy needs more resources and taxes. I am sure, however, that this is not the best option, and therefore it will not be considered the solution. Based on the information I have, I believe overall energy taxes will be implemented, not specifically oil taxes, which should not be a problem for oil exporting countries.

[Zambrano] Joaquin Lopez Doria, of Mexican daily EL HERALDO.

[Lopez] President Callejas: Do you believe the era of rhetoric in Latin America is over? If this is true, what specific results were achieved at this meeting?

[Callejas] Undoubtedly, this meeting has highly positive and practical effects for Central America. It is also an example for Latin America of what can be done with solidarity and fraternity among our nations. For us, the efforts conducted by Venezuela, Colombia, and Mexico have contributed in making important objectives for Central America a reality by supporting our integration, which we are not merely promoting with words but with actions. Central America is already a free trade zone. Effective 1 March, we will have common tariffs. We are pleased with the resolutions and goodwill that will enable Central America to join a larger free trade zone, for which we are currently negotiating agreements with Mexico and Venezuela, and bilateral or multilateral agreements with Mexico. This is a reality. On behalf of Central American countries, I want to thank President Carlos Andres Perez, as well as the Colombian and Mexican presidents for their extraordinary efforts.

[Zambrano] Elmer Tovar of Colombian daily EL TIEMPO.

[Tovar] Mr. President Perez: It has been agreed that some countries with less development should receive preferential treatment. In addition, within some of those countries there are parts of the population who live in

extreme poverty. What is being done within the integration process so that the poor people will not remain poor while the great industries—petrochemical industries and other economic sectors—continue growing?

[Perez] Undoubtedly, a nations' poverty is the main cause of the poverty affecting persons or families. Unless we resolve the problem of the nation's poverty, we will not be able to resolve the problem of the people's poverty. Precisely, this integration process will create wealth for our countries, will generate more jobs, and consequently, will promote trade, and more wealth for all levels of society. We must link this to the type of government. Integration is prospering in Latin America under democratic governments, which by nature act within the principles of social justice. This integration process will naturally result in an improvement of the standard of living of all the inhabitants of our region.

I would like you to look at the map that illustrates the G-3 meeting with Central American countries. You can see what the green region means: Central America with Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia, in a great integration movement. In addition, we will add the Caribbean islands. The Caribbean nations are also part of the G-3 efforts to promote the integration among our three nations, and among our nations and the Caribbean Basin. Therefore, the next G-3 meeting this year will be with the Caribbean nations in order to integrate them into this great process.

[Zambrano] Estrella Gutierrez of Interpress Service now has the floor.

[Gutierrez] Good morning, presidents. President Perez has just referred to opening the integration process to the so-called historical Great Caribbean Area, both the islands and the mainland. You then referred to a second stage that is moving the integration process down south to cover all of the Latin American nations. How would that work in 1993? For example, what steps would be taken with Mercosur [Southern Cone Common Market] and the Andean Pact?

On the other hand, we are all pleasantly surprised to see that Costa Rican President Calderon Fournier on 12 February signed the Colombia-Venezuelan-Central American trade agreement. Till 12 February, Costa Rica had a different stand. I would like to know what was done to convince Costa Rica, and what exceptions were made so that Costa Rica would sign?

[Perez] Actually, there were no strong reasons for Costa Rica not to form part of the overall agreement between Colombia, Venezuela, and Central America. Nonetheless, this is usual in the discussions that take place prior to the signing of documents. Sometimes, these situations come up and call for more in-depth discussions. Undoubtedly, when the G-3 met with the Central American presidents, it was immediately decided that the economy ministers of all the countries attending the meeting were to move into another room so they would reach an agreement. This is the way the agreement was reached. We encountered no difficulties because there were actually no differences between Costa Rica and other Central American nations nor between Costa Rica and the G-3.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Perez] Yes, of course. We Latin Americans first had this Utopian idea of achieving an overall and simultaneous integration, and we created the Latin American Free Trade Association [LAFTA]. This operated, in theory, for a few years until we realized that this was not the path and that we should form subregional associations with the countries that had some possibilities of concluding agreements. In this manner, we would gradually attain the great Latin American integration. That is what we are doing now.

Many times we have been asked: With so many organizations, how do Latin Americans expect to have a unified voice in the world? There is the G-3, the Andean Group, the Central American Group, Caricom [Caribbean Common Market], Mercosur, the Rio Group; there is a wide range of organizations. There is no contradiction nor confusion. These are merging processes that seek Latin American integration. Others might raise this question: What is Mexico doing in this meeting if Mexico is concluding an agreement in North America with Canada and the United States? There is no contradiction here, either. Within this changing world, we are heading to a great hemispheric market. What NAFTA is today for those three countries will later be for all other countries of the Latin America.

There is no contradiction either with this agreement and Latin American integration. We must accept as a historical fact that there are two regions in the Americas that are divided by the Rio Grande and Rio Bravo. There is South America and North America. We are part of a continent within which a great market will be formed, but both regions will survive with different historical and cultural backgrounds. More and more, the OAS will become the common table where the two regions will sit down to establish our agreements and solve our differences in the search for hemispheric unity.

[Zambrano] Francisco Cuevas of Television Nacional of Guatemala. Mariela Briceno of EL NACIONAL newspaper of Venezuela.

[Briceno] Good afternoon, Mr. President. I would like to know if you addressed Panama's reentry to the Rio Group and if this is at all possible? On the other hand, regarding the case of Guatemala, what are the options for dialogue, if any?

[Perez] The issue of Panama's reentry to the Rio Group was not discussed, because this was not the place to discuss that. On the contrary, we discussed the situation of Guatemala. In this regard, we have formed a support group for President Serrano's peace actions in Guatemala. This group is formed by Colombia, Spain, Mexico, and Venezuela. This is the same support group that

assisted the peace talks in the Salvadoran case. Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez had already given me his approval by telephone to join this support group.

[Zambrano] Fidel Samaniego of EL UNIVERSAL of Mexico. Ilse Barrero of QAP newscast of Colombia.

[Barrero] Good afternoon, President Perez, what reference does the Caracas Declaration that you signed on 12 February make to the issues of coffee, drug trafficking, and gunrunning.

[Perez] A special paragraph was devoted to drug trafficking. The G-3 and Central America decided to form a structure to fight drug trafficking jointly in our region. We did not discuss the issue of gunrunning.

[Barrero] What about coffee?

[Perez] Well, we devoted some time to discuss the important coffee and banana issues. At this point, I would like to give the floor to President Callejas so he can speak on these topics, which interest all os us. On these topics, we express our full solidarity with Central America.

[Callejas] In the case of bananas, in support of the resolution issued by the presidents and representatives of the Governments of Venezuela and Mexico who met in Guayaquil, the Declaration views and supports the need for the EEC not to impose quotas or restrictions on Latin American bananas in the European market, in keeping with free trade.

In the case of coffee, at the request of the president of Colombia, a resolution was adopted calling for the conclusion of OIC [International Coffee Organization] negotiations establishing quotas to avoid the further reduction of coffee prices, which is vital for our countries.

[Zambrano] Alfonso Navarro of international news agency NOTIMEX.

[Navarro] Good afternoon, Messrs. Presidents. Was Cuba discussed at this meeting? As you made the observation on the map, Cuba was marked with a different color. I would like to know—since you have recognized that so far the efforts by the G-3 to achieve Cuba's return to the Inter-American system have been unsuccessful—if the G-3 is willing to launch new initiatives? What specific areas will these initiatives by the G-3 cover, if any?

[Perez] I would not hesitate to say that all nine presidents who met on 12 February share the same spirit of solidarity and willingness to contribute to some form of understanding that would bring Cuba once again to Latin American fraternity and cooperation. However, as the journalist has pointed out, unfortunately so far the efforts that the Colombian, Mexican, and Venezuelan presidents have made have not had satisfactory results. On this opportunity, in this meeting we did not discuss Cuba at all although all of us want Cuba to join in the activities in our region, to which it belongs.

[Zambrano] Jose Marcano, of Venezolana de Television, Channel 8 now has the floor.

[Marcano] My question is directed to the Venezuelan president. Concerning the request made by the Central American presidents about the 10 projects, could you please explain if these are technical and advisory cooperation projects or do these projects require some financing? If so, which multilateral organizations are going to provide the financing, inasmuch as the Venezuelan deputy foreign minister has said that the cholera program costs approximately $71 million. Who is going to finance these projects?

[Perez] These are very interesting projects that we have submitted to further study before reaching any decision. All of them point out to strengthening integration in order to strengthen development in all of our nations. These agreements cover economic cooperation, technical and scientific cooperation, social development cooperation, educational and cultural cooperation, and the coordination of all efforts. These are the projects we are going to study and which simply provide practical means for understanding and cooperation in these basic aspects of the development of our nations.

[Zambrano] Ciro Perez Silva, of Notivision of Mexico. Jairo Corredor, Radio Caracol of Colombia.

[Corredor] Mr. President Perez: I am going to change the subject somewhat to ask you the following: How much longer are Colombia and Venezuela going to negotiate their border differences? Who is to be blamed for the delay in this process, and why the fear of resorting other international bodies, instead of direct agreement and direct negotiations?

[Perez] I think that right now Venezuela and Colombia are showing Latin America a great example of unity, solidarity, and cooperation. Unfortunately, we are not responsible for the situations that colonialism left upon us when it created the borders of our sovereign and independent nations. One never knows when these types of controversies will end. One thing we know is that this will end with an agreement between our two nations. We have not agreed to resort to international organizations because, in the first place, we trust that we will be able to solve them through bilateral negotiations.

On the other hand, we have here President Callejas, whose nation also had an old dispute with El Salvador. They decided to resort to the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague. After many years of conflict, fortunately they solved it. We, on the other hand, have thought that bilateral negotiations are the most advisable means for the two countries. Perhaps the factors that have spurred this controversy make us realize that to bring in a third party could create a situation where we would have a winner and a loser. However, we think that

through the actions of the two countries we will solve the conflict without any future problems. That is what we think about this issue.

[Corredor] Excuse me, Mr. President. Has the process of direct talks not been exhausted?

[Perez] No, this process has not been exhausted. On the contrary, in the measure that this integration process advances and the interests of both nations become united, the solution to the problem will be easier.

As you know, since the day after I took office, the Colombian and Venezuelan Commission have been working daily to provide a solution to the problem. This is not reported because this is not public knowledge. But I can assure you that great progress is being made to reach a possible understanding.

I cannot tell you if during my administration, we can conclude the conversations and reach a final solution. But I can tell you that if this is not possible, the next government will have a prompt solution of the conflict at hand.

[Zambrano] Dinorah Rosas of Venevision Channel Four of Venezuela.

[Rosas] Good afternoon, Messrs. Presidents. So far the economic integration agreements in Latin America are being mainly promoted by presidents. By early 1994, most presidents who have participated in this summit will be out of office and, according to most polls conducted in each country, it is possible that their replacements will come from the opposition. Who will guarantee that these agreements will be followed up by the governments that will replace you.

[Callejas] In the specific case of the Central American region, the willingness to become integrated comes from the people rather than the governments. Since the times of our independence, when we came to being as a common nation, we have had the historic determination to have economic, political, and especially human integration. These are the feelings that we perceive among nations, not only in Central America and not only from the presidents. In this case, the presidents are only instruments of the citizens to achieve a great Bolivarian and Morazanist objective.

I have great faith in this process. This is what is taking place in Central America, because we have talked to opposition candidates, and labor and business leaders. There is no doubt that the national feeling is understanding and realizing that the option for a better future for our citizens lay in the economic, social, and why not political integration.

This dream of our forefathers is now a determination of our citizens. I have no doubt in my mind that regardless of who wins in the countries that will hold elections, integration will be a reality and will continue to be a desired by all.

[Perez] I would go even further on what President Callejas has said, with which I fully agree. What is taking place today is the best demonstration of the deep changes that are taking place in Latin America.

Yesterday, if presidents changed so did the orientations in this regard, because these were rhetoric orientations. We were not doing anything specific.

The changes happening today are irreversible. The leaders who come after us will have to continue with these changes unless they want to create a social, political, and economic catastrophe in their country.

On the other hand, governments represent the integrationist movement. We are the expression of an organized nation, but everyone is participating. That integration is impossible without the private sector. The private sector is participating fully and is making the agreements signed by the governments representing our peoples a reality.

We are in the process of organizing the Central American and Latin American Parliaments, and we already have the Andean Parliament. All the parties in our countries have joined the integration process. The process, therefore, is irreversible. Of course there will always be people opposed to change; small groups or insignificant groups that are against integration. This process, however, is defining a new face for Latin America.

[Zambrano] Miriam Sequera of Associated Press.

[Sequera] Good afternoon, Mr. President. I would like to know if the G-3 has agreed on a timetable as the agreement should be implemented on 1 January 1994. I would also like to know if your agenda included the situation in Haiti and if you discussed any new proposals for the return of President Aristide?

[Perez] Yes, at the G-3 meeting we established 1 January 1994 as the date for the implementation of a free trade zone among Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico. Negotiators agreed on a timetable to reach the final agreements quickly to implement the G-3 free trade zone in 1994.

We discussed the situation in Haiti, as well as the situations in Guatemala and El Salvador and all the subjects pertaining to Latin America. We discussed those topics at the G-3 meeting and at our meeting with the Central American presidents. Of course, we agreed to give those countries our solidarity and support. In the case of Haiti, we are fully supporting the efforts of Dante Caputo as the representative of the UN and OAS secretaries general.

[Zambrano] Maria Victoria Cristancho of the Venezuelan daily PANORAMA.

[Cristancho] One of the projects proposed by the Central American group was an electricity interconnection between the isthmus, Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico. As we know, there is already an electricity interconnection between Colombia and Venezuela currently in its

initial phase. There is also an electricity interconnection between Mexico and Guatemala. Could you explain the status of this project, how much it will cost, and what institutions will be financing it?

[Callejas] This is one of the most important projects to be carried out by our generation on the American continent. It is also a specific part of the integration among Colombia, Venezuela, Central America, and Mexico. It is not a simple project. It will require great investments. Integration in this field can cost more than $20 billion. Of course, this action is not specifically promoted by the governments. It will be necessary to generate electricity, particularly from Colombia and Venezuela toward the north due to the shortage of electricity in Central America and southern Mexico. This is a realistic approach to the problem of resolving future energy crises. Steps have already been taken in that direction. The Latin American Energy Commission has discussed the matter. There is already electricity interconnection in Central America, and it is being expanded to southern Mexico. I understand there is a similar interconnection between Colombia and Venezuela.

This is an ambitious project to be developed over many years. It will require efforts not only from the governments but also from private enterprise. It is one of the 10 projects proposed to the G- 3. We must stress, however, that the idea is not to have the countries finance the project but to seek other alternatives, including the participation of private capital to finance a project of this magnitude.

[Zambrano] Presidents Callejas and Perez have other commitments. We thank foreign and local reporters for attending this news conference.

Venezuela, Colombia Sign Accord With CACM

PA1302230793 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Feb 93

[By correspondent Luis Alfredo Gomez]

[Text] Caracas—Colombia and Venezuela have signed a basic agreement with representatives of the Central American Common Market [CACM] to begin forming a free trade zone.

Presidents Carlos Andres Perez and Cesar Gaviria Trujillo met in Caracas with their colleagues—Jorge Serrano from Guatemala, Rafael Callejas from Honduras, Alfredo Cristiani from El Salvador, Violeta Chamorro from Nicaragua, Rafael Calderon from Costa Rica, and Guillermo Endara from Panama— to define the conditions for integration.

Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos, who is in Caracas as a member of the Colombian Government's official commission, stated that this basic agreement will be more specific than those signed with other countries so the tariff liberalization can be carried out promptly.

Among the points established in the agreement are asymmetrical conditions for various products aimed at reducing the advantages of industrially developed Colombia and Venezuela over Central American countries. The agreement also reviewed the creation of a customs system including approximately 300 items that should start replacing the customs tariffs on 30 July, Santos explained.

The foreign trade minister added that integration with the CACM will particularly benefit the service sector because it will create opportunities for Colombian professionals to carry out development works in that area of the continent.

SELA Official on Nonmember Countries' Integration

PA1502020893 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Salvador Arriola, permanent secretary of the Latin American Economic System [SELA], said in Caracas that his organization is working to attain the incorporation of countries that do not belong to subregional schemes into the regional reintegration process.

In statements made in the Venezuelan capital, the SELA leader said that in the cases of Cuba, Dominican Republic, and Suriname, the organization imposed special programs and mechanisms in the fields of finance, science, technology, and others, and also promoted rapprochements between businessmen. All these tend to link those nations with the integration process.

With regard to Cuba, Salvador Arriola said there are possibilities because Cuban President Fidel Castro said during the first Ibero-American Summit, held in 1991 in Mexico, there is a good disposition to even establish preferential measures for Cuban economic relations with Latin America.

CAF Signs Credit Agreement With Barbados

FL0902194993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1728 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 9, CANA—The Venezuela-headquartered Andean Development Corporation, a multi-purpose bank owned by Andean Pact member countries, Mexico and Chile, is looking to conclude its third trade financing arrangement with a Caribbean Community (Caricom) state in a few weeks, a top official said here tuesday.

Enrique Garcia, executive president of CAF, the Spanish acronym by which the corporation is better known, on Monday signed an agreement with the Central Bank of Barbados for the extension of a US5 million dollar line of credit to finance and stimulate trade between this Caricom state and the five Andean Pact members-Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador.

Garcia told CANA CAF was hoping to finalise a similar arrangement with Jamaica shortly. Trinidad and Tobago last year became the first beneficiary in Caricom of a CAF line of credit.

Garcia said the bank's decision to expand into Caricom reflected the "special interest" Latin American countries were taking in developing closer economic ties with the English-speaking Caribbean.

As an example of this interest, he pointed to the new one-way free trade agreement providing for Caricom products to enter Venezuela duty free. He said Colombia also was considering a similar arrangement with Caricom.

Garcia said the trade financing arrangements represented "an initial step" in CAF's planned involvement in Caricom. "We hope that in the future we might also consider facilitating financing of joint ventures (involving Latin American entrepreneurs)," he added.

The trade financing facility with Barbados allows credit for up to 180 days but CAF is giving consideration to an expansion up to three years, Garcia said.

Banana Exporting Countries Meet in Ecuador

PA1202174993

[Editorial Report] Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish at 1556 GMT on 11 February begins live coverage of the summit of Latin American banana exporting countries at the Oro Verde Hotel in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

At 1557 GMT Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen begins to speak and welcomes the presidents of Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Colombia. Duran-Ballen reviews the poor countries' struggle to overcome economic crises, poverty, and social problems in the eighties. He says developed countries pledged to respect international norms and GATT principles, but "totally free trade does not exist. Rich and industrialized countries prove every day that so-called trade freedom exists only in name. Protectionism is again at the heart of the so-called free competition, only this time it is disguised as economic blocs which replace national protectionism and are, therefore, more powerful."

Duran-Ballen says the reduction of banana export quotas will cause millions of dollars in losses every year although the EEC said "it would sponsor an open international economy that would be increasingly productive and equitable and would grant special attention to the interests of less developed countries. The EEC also stated its rejection of all forms of protectionism and it pledged to struggle for the reduction of existing trade barriers among blocs and countries."

At 1608 GMT the president says the world wants to protect its biological wealth and mankind must cooperate in this endeavor. He says it is necessary "to comprise a united Latin American bloc which has the strength of a market of more than 500 million people and which can operate efficiently within the world's new rules. On this occasion I propose the creation of a high-level group that will be in charge of studying and following up essential problems that afflict us alike. The group will also prepare a meeting of Latin American presidents to define an overall strategy aimed at defending our economic and social rights." At 1611 GMT Duran-Ballen concludes his speech.

An unidentified official then reads letters sent to the summit by Argentine President Carlos Menem, Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer, Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez, and other high-ranking politicians in the region.

At 1621 GMT Colombian President Cesar Gaviria begins his speech. Gaviria agrees with Duran-Ballen that the recently approved banana export system establishes and perpetuates actions that are openly discriminatory, protectionist, and restrictive toward Latin American banana exports. He adds that "the most critical effect of the EEC's decision is that it seriously deteriorates the credibility of an international trade system based on greater liberty, competition, and opportunities; and on rules that are applicable to everyone alike."

Gaviria says not only are banana exports at stake. It also involves respect for the rules of trade among nations because free trade should be an irreversible practice in which everyone can enjoy the benefits. At 1627 GMT Gaviria concludes his speech.

At 1628 GMT Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas begins to speak and emphasizes over 40 percent of certain countries' foreign exchange comes from banana exports. Callejas reviews two proposals that have been issued to solve this serious problem, because poor countries like Honduras will suffer the consequences even more. The president concludes his speech stating he will "fully and absolutely endorse any resolution issued in the summit to prevent one of the worst acts of economic injustice in history." Callejas ends his speech at 1630 GMT.

At 1631 GMT Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano follows with his speech. He says justice must prevail because the EEC measures adversely affect banana exporting countries' economies and limit their social and economic development. Serrano condemns the unilateral EEC measures and "recommends the creation of a group to study a system of reciprocity with the EEC" because this is important in all trade activities. Serrano concludes his speech at 1638 GMT.

At 1639 GMT Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon speaks. He reviews Latin American countries' struggle for independence and new international economic order, and government efforts to enforce respect for human rights. Calderon concludes his speech at 1641 GMT.

Nicaraguan President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro begins her speech at 1642 GMT. She says the unilateral decision adopted by the EEC could hurt a new democracy such as the one that now exists in her country. Chamorro issues "an appeal to our European friends, urging them to reconsider the decision they adopted and, based on a spirit of dialogue and consensus, to renew the conditions which grant Latin American bananas access to Europe based on GATT principles." Chamorro concludes her speech at 1648 GMT.

Panamanian President Guillermo Endara then begins to speak. He says Panamanian efforts to join GATT were thwarted by the EEC measure, which violates all principles. He urges GATT member countries to adopt the necessary measures because this action will have serious repercussions. Endara ends his speech at 1655 GMT.

Endara's speech is followed by the speeches by the representatives of the Venezuelan and Mexican Governments.

At 1710 GMT President Sixto Duran-Ballen closes the round of speeches by stating all speakers have assessed the negative effects the EEC measure will have on their respective countries. Duran-Ballen emphasizes European countries said other nations should imitate their post-war efforts to achieve unity, yet they create all kinds of obstacles to preclude this.

The Ecuadoran president says this problem affects the continent as a whole and "we must show Latin America is united and it does not want this for its future." He then tells the presidents that Ecuador's "work team has prepared a draft Santiago de Guayaquil presidential declaration after consultations with some officials in your countries;" and he asks the presidents whether the document should be read before a recess is called.

At 1716 GMT Guatemalan President Serrano thanks Duran-Ballen for the draft declaration and suggests he call a recess. At 1718 GMT the station ends live coverage of the summit and returns to the main studios.

Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish at 1932 GMT resumes live coverage from the Oro Verde Hotel in Guayaquil, Ecuador. President Duran-Ballen reads a message from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher supporting the Latin American stand. Mauricio Pinto Mancheno, Ecuadoran minister of industry, commerce, integration, and fisheries at 1945 GMT reads a press release issued by the seven presidents "voicing satisfaction over the stand adopted by some EEC members," specifically Germany, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and Denmark at a Brussels meeting, as these countries "are leaning toward the adoption of a system that will not hurt the interests of the Latin American countries." The presidents conclude the release "urging these countries to maintain a firm stand for the benefit of the stability" of multilateral trade.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Paredes Delgado at 1955 GMT reads the text of the "Santiago de Guayaquil Presidential Declaration," (filed as PA1202005693), which the presidents proceed to sign.

Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen declares the summit over at 2007 GMT, at which time Quito La Voz de los Andes concludes coverage.

Cuba

Castro Discusses Electoral Unity, Nominees

FL1802161193 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] On 17 February, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro participated in a meeting of the Family Doctor Program's physicians and nurses who provide care for the residents of District No. 1 of Plaza de la Revolucion Municipality with legislature deputy candidates and Havana City Provincial Assembly delegates for that district. At the meeting, Fidel explained that when we talk about a unified vote—about not dispersing the vote—we are talking about a political strategy by the revolutionaries aimed at allowing them the privilege of having [de contar con] in the legislature and the provincial assemblies people who, although extremely worthy, are not very well known.

The Cuban president mentioned perfecting the electoral system, which had already been democratic before these elections. He affirmed that division has never brought anything good to Cuba and explained that the goal has been to hold elections by direct vote without introducing competition among the candidates. Fidel recalled that almost half the legislature's deputies will be grassroots-level candidates while on the other hand, it will also include distinguished individuals well known on the provincial or national level.

On 17 February, the commander in chief also attended a meeting in front of the scholarship students' building at Twelfth and Malecon, and a meeting between candidates and the voters of the Celia Sanchez Agricultural Contingent in Guira de Melena, which is composed of workers from Marianao.

Alarcon Calls Elections 'Most Democratic'

FL1802224293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] The candidates for deputy to the National Assembly of the Peoples' Government and the Havana City Provincial Assembly for Plaza de la Revolution Municipality, met on 18 February with workers of the headquarters of the Ministry of the Sugar Industry [Minaz] where in a question and answer session they discussed in detail several aspects of the Cuban elections.

Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, who has been nominated to the National Assembly for District No. 2, gave a comprehensive description of elections in other countries which are considered models of democracy—mainly, in the United States—and compared them with the Cuban process and method.

[Begin Alarcon recording] If we make a list of facts, you realize that our system is incomparably, incomparably [repeats] more democratic, the most democratic in the western Christian world around us which boasts of superiority. Our system was superior even before changes were made in the electoral law, it is so much more now, and it will continue to be so even more in the future. Because in the first place, I believe the most important thing is to....[pauses] In addition to the issue of: Whom is that power for? Whom is that government for? Is it for the majority or the minority? This is what ultimately defines democratic goals. But in addition to this, they are defined by the level of real participation of the people in the whole process. In our system—[Carlos] Lage also explained this—the whole participation of the people at the base level, in thousands of assemblies, thousands of meetings, to choose the candidates, to select them, to nominate them, is very different from what takes place in other countries. [end recording]

In addition to candidates Alarcon and Carlos Lage, the youthful Tania Perez Iquez spoke about the place obtained by the youth, and journalist Martinez Pirez and Lazaro Gonzalez from the bicycle factory talked with the Minaz workers about their experiences.

Alarcon, Lage Respond To Questions on Elections

FL1902024893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report by Marisela Escoto and Gisela Bel Heredia on the "Exclusive" program—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Escoto] The Revolution has called us to a united vote. It is not a campaign or a slogan. I would say that it is a political banner, a political strategy for the elections. That is what Politburo member Carlos Lage Davila, the secretary of the Council of Ministers and its Executive Committee, said during a meeting between the candidates for deputy to National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] and candidates for delegate to Havana City Provincial Assembly for Plaza de la Revolucion Municipality and Ministry of the Sugar Industry [Minaz] workers.

Lage offered several arguments for a united vote in responding to a question by one Minaz worker on the importance of including both comrades with more experience and younger comrades among the candidates.

[Lage] "I would like to answer the question because it seems to me that there is an aspect of the question that concerns the idea of the appropriateness and political importance of a united vote by revolutionaries. It is precisely the fact that a united vote by revolutionaries favors and contributes to the election of the younger and less well-known candidates. If we as voters are going to choose from among the comrades that have been nominated in each district, naturally the result may be that many comrades will choose the comrades they know best or those they know and of whom they have a good opinion.

"Nevertheless, there are many comrades who are not so well known because of their work, because of the kind of work they do, but nevertheless, they have extraordinary

merits. The ANPP very much needs exactly those young forces and the forces made up of the base-level delegates."

[Escoto] Another argument emphasized by Lage, which gives a basis for a united vote by revolutionaries, concerns the way the candidates were chosen.

[Lage] "The process for drawing up the lists of candidates is a process that allows the people and the revolutionaries to have confidence in the way they were chosen, and the way the analyses were done."

[Escoto] Lastly, Carlos Lage Davila referred to the importance of a united vote by revolutionaries, keeping in mind the time we are living in.

[Lage] "And these elections can become an important political victory for the Revolution."

[Escoto] You have listened to Politburo member Carlos Lage Davila, the secretary of the Council of Ministers and its Executive Committee.

[Bel] Another important moment during the meeting between the candidates from Plaza de la Revolucion and Minaz workers was the comments made by Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon, a candidate to the ANPP for District No. 2 of that municipality. Alarcon emphasized the democratic nature of our elections. He referred to what electoral participation is like in the United States, and who can be a candidate. He said that in Cuba there is participation both as voters and in nominating the candidates.

[Alarcon] "Only with a system like ours are there young people, workers, all kinds of people from all levels of our society, who can represent us at the different levels of the people's government. Nevertheless, I think that to the extent that our people show massive, unanimous support for the people's candidates, to the extent that these elections become a true demonstration of patriotic and revolutionary spirit, of the people's awareness, we will be demonstrating Cuba's unity at a very difficult time. I think that our message, the message of this example set by the Cuban people—despite the propaganda, despite the [words indistinct] the major mass media—inevitably, one way or another, will reach people that exist in this world, in this world where there are poor people, oppressed people, people who are discriminated against, and where there are many people who do not have the remotest chance of even dreaming of having the degree of participation in an electoral process that we have."

Electorate, Polling Station Figures Provided

FL1802144493 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Up to the present, the number of voters who will be able to cast a ballot on 24 February totals 7,754,569. They will be electing the legislature's deputies and the delegates of the 14 provincial assemblies of the people's government. It has also been officially reported in the capital that 27,600 polling stations have been set up with a view to avoiding bottlenecks everywhere and to having the voting proceed quickly.

The National Electoral Commission has confirmed that the results of the voting at each polling station will be posted on a ballot at the entrance to the polling station as soon as the counting of the votes is over.

Commentary Urges Unity in Ideas, Votes

FL1802232393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Commentary by Ariel Larramendi]

[Text] They say that the force of habit is part of human nature. I am not going to discuss this pseudo-philosophical precept, although I will use it as the point of departure for the following reflections. The tendency to use stereotypes, to allow oneself to be guided by custom, sometimes dominates other (?people). It neutralizes some illustrious intellects.

For example, there are those who think that if, during elections, there is not a greater number of candidates than positions to elect them to, the voter is being placed in a straitjacket designed by higher-ups. For example, some surmise that electing 589 deputies from 589 candidates provides no choices. This is a way of thinking in keeping with tradition and valid under particular circumstances. Those who think in this way are forgetting about the conditions under which this electoral process is taking place.

This then leads to another precept, which I choose to state in the following way: Man is the sum of himself and his circumstances. Therefore, the Revolution is the sum of itself and its environment. We sometimes forget about this environment, submerged as we are in our daily affairs.

The Cuban Revolution—our socialism, 34 years of hard work on a humanistic project, complete with its errors and achievements—is experiencing difficulties. Lying in ambush along the road are the same old enemies, as well as others who have joined their voices to a chorus worthy of better undertakings. On that side are those who speculate as to how many ballots might be declared null and void or about the number of people who might abstain, in order to lay out strategies or find fissures in the Revolution through which they can shove the wedge of their seditious or diversionary campaigns.

I think our country's current circumstances do not lend themselves to ceremonies or formalities that could also be considered democratic, but at some other time or under other circumstances. At present, the Revolution needs for revolutionaries not to scatter, not to divide. Under the current circumstances, revolutionaries need to stand firmly united in ideas and votes.

If we elected the best people on 20 December, and later trusted in the electoral commissions to choose among thousands of the best people; and if we later noted that our historic leaders, our young people, our artists and intellectuals, our workers and small farmers, and our athletes and students are on the lists of candidates, then we too are on those lists. There is no doubt about it.

The Revolution requires that revolutionaries define themselves constantly, especially at the present time. There are no half-measures; the "x" must be marked in the circle. It is as simple as that.

Cienfuegos Candidates Meet With Local Residents

FL1802205993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report by Manuel Varela Perez]

[Text] I want to talk about some of the visits being conducted by our candidates to the National Assembly and the Cienfuegos Provincial Assembly of the Peoples' Government. The people once again have given a very warm welcome to their candidates to the National Assembly and the provincial assembly. During the past week, the candidates have once again visited sites of interest in the province. Yesterday—I want to talk about the visits held here in the city of Cienfuegos because it included a wide range of social sectors—the candidates for Cienfuegos Municipality met with the students of Cinco de Septiembre Polytechnical School; officers, soldiers, and workers of the Ministry of the Interior provincial office; and members of the Martires de Barbados Agricultural-Livestock Cooperative, located in the Rancho Luna region, near Cienfuegos.

The residents of nearby El Guao also gave the candidates a warm welcome. Next, the candidates visited the Pepito Tey Mill, which is in the midst of its sugar harvest work. Next, they visited the Buenavista neighborhood where, with slogans and music, they met with members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] and the Federation of Cuban Women [FMC]. Similar experiences took place in meetings with CDR and FMC members in several districts of Cienfuegos City. At every place, a dialogue and the popular expression of giving another yes for Cuba—which means voting for all the candidates—arose spontaneously.

Who are the candidates to the National Assembly for Cienfuegos Municipality? Cienfuegos, the capital of the province, is organized in two electoral districts. The candidates for District No. 1 are Gilberto del Rosario Hernandez, a research technician, and a national vanguard of the National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts, who holds a degree on physics; (Wilfredo Gil Martin), the president of the Peoples' Government who holds a degree in social sciences, and has extensive experience in teaching; Nelson Torres Perez, a Politburo member and the first secretary of the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, who is a civil engineer.

The candidates to the National Assembly for Cienfuegos' District No. 2 are Juan Carlos Diaz Pacheco, the young president of Junco Sur Peoples' Council; Eugenio Luis Mainegra Alvarez, the chief of the Basic Industry Department of the Central Committee, who has worked extensively as a student leader in Cienfuegos City; Maria de las Nieves Provance Sanchez, the president of [words indistinct] Victoria Provincial People's Government, and a delegate to the Municipal Assembly of the Peoples' Government for Caunao neighborhood. The list of candidates to the National Assembly for Cienfuegos is rounded off by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, a Politburo member and vice president of the Council of Ministers, who has worked extensively in Cienfuegos Province.

These are the candidates to the Cuban National Assembly for the people of Cienfuegos.

Workers Union Demands Release of President

PA1802175293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2123 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Havana, 17 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The opposition Cuban Workers Union [Union Sindical de Trabajadores de Cuba] (USTC) demanded on 17 February that the Cuban Government immediately release Rafael Gutierrez Santos, the union's president, who has been held under arrest since 6 February.

Maria Martinez, public relations executive of the dissident organization, explained that Gutierrez Santos was arrested by Cuban Government officials and taken to the headquarters of the Political Police, known as "Villa Marista."

The USTC spokeswoman said the opposition leader will be taken to the courts for processing in the next few days, but said she still does not know what charges were brought against him.

Martinez said that on 3 April 1992, the USTC—the dissident version of the progovernment Cuban Workers Federation (CTC)—requested legal status from the Justice Ministry.

We ratified the request on 2 July and 19 October of that same year and we "based ourselves on Agreements No. 87 and 98 of the International Labor Organization (ILO)."

According to the USTC leader, the Justice Ministry has still not answered the request made by the organization, even though they also sent several letters to Cuban President Fidel Castro, Martinez said.

The USTC also asked the ILO and the labor unions of other countries to intercede with the Cuban Government for the release of Rafael Gutierrez Santos.

Prospects for National Citrus Industry Viewed

PA1902145993 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Report by Amalia San Martino]

[Text] During the past few years Cuban production of citrus fruits and other by-products constituted one of the country's main exports. However, the loss of traditional trading partners in the former socialist sphere induced a reorientation in this agricultural specialty.

The Cuban citrus production program was able to obtain unquestionable advances that allowed it to follow new directions during the past three years starting from a well established foundation. Cuba was able to accomplish the development of its citrus plantations during the last decade, but it was also able to create the necessary infrastructure for the industrialization of the product in three large networks located in Matanzas Province and the Isle of Youth, both located in the west, as well as in the eastern territory of Ciego de Avila.

Cuban businessmen are intent in their search for new markets in a very competitive world after the reduction of purchases by their former associates in Eastern Europe. In view of the trends in client preferences, investments concentrated on expanding capacity, making technological modifications to citrus processing plants, and improving workers' technical training.

The national citrus industry is also trying to attract joint ventures with foreign firms in order to obtain the capital and technology needed to keep up with production and quality parameters.

The largest production volume of concentrated juices is on the Isle of Youth. This production line is constantly facing great demand from buyers.

With approximately 72,000 tons of grapefruits produced from August to date, the territory located south of Havana Province continues to turn over fruits to the industry. This week the Pina Citrus Preserves Company is expected to complete 740 tons of concentrated juice for export. This production rate will allow it to complete its production level of 3,000 tons in the near future.

Since its initial stages, the Isle of Youth citrus campaign guaranteed its prospects on the international market with the delivery of 11,000 tons of fresh grapefruit to foreign buyers.

Specialists, technicians, and workers guarantee careful attention to the important crop, regardless of whether it is in its natural form or in some by-products, with the objective of maintaining the well earned prestige of Cuban citrus.

Minister Links Revolution With Health Achievments

FL1802171393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Public Health Minister Julio Teja has stated in Guantanamo that the Revolution's successes in the sphere of health, as well as many other achievements of a social nature, constitute a message to the people of Cuba, who on 24 February will surely vote in favor of continuing our project for independence. Teja, who is also a Central Committee member, pointed out that in the midst of severe material-resource limitations, the various health programs are being maintained—beginning with the mother/child-care program, which in 1992 achieved the historic infant mortality rate of 10.2 per 1,000 live births.

Ceremony Held To Create Scientific Hub in Cienfuegos

FL1902023393 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The importance science and technology are acquiring in all fields is expressed in the creation of another scientific hub, this time in Cienfuegos. The scientific and technical potential developed by Cienfuegos Province is the basis for this decision. The work at this scientific hub will include systematization of research in the fields of energy, the chemical industry, agricultural and construction machinery, medicine, and the food program.

There are already results that show the work by researchers, professionals, and technicians in these and other fronts of production and services. The application of the achievements of science and technology, for example, is closely connected with the efficiency levels of the last sugar harvest, cane recovery, and the increase in the production of tubers and vegetables achieved here in 1992.

At the official ceremony held to create the Cienfuegos scientific hub, it was noted how the spirit of cooperation and integration that marks the work done in this province has laid the foundation for the rapid search for alternatives for the most pressing problems, not only the province's but also the country's. It was stated that the quickness of this process depends above all on our scientists' dedication to their work.

At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Rosa Elena Simeon, the president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, spoke about the upcoming elections on 24 February.

[Begin Simeon recording] We are proud of the number of researchers who have been nominated for deputy to the National Assembly, and like all our people, the science and technology sector sees in these elections one more demonstration, one more practical way, of giving a yes for Cuba and showing their desire for socialism. I think that this can be felt at all the research centers, but it is also felt in all the work centers in Cuba. [end recording]

Plan Allows Students To Pursue Higher Education

FL1902020193 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] [Words indistinct] students who will graduate from 6th, 9th, and 12th grade will be able to continue their studies in spite of the difficult conditions the country is experiencing. This education plan makes it possible to combine the interest in higher education and that of training a skilled work force at the secondary-school level and in trade schools. Of all 9th grade graduates, 38 percent will be able to go to preuniversity schools, and the rest will have the option of enrolling in technical and professional or trade schools.

For their part, in addition to going on to higher education, those who complete preuniversity school will be able to opt for technological specialties or training to become skilled workers. Most of the students will be able to study in the provinces where they reside, thus avoiding the massive movement of students from one province to another, and especially to the capital. As for the skilled work force, the education plan offers specialties which are priorities for the country, such as agricultural-livestock and trade school specialties.

Bilateral Aviation Agreement Signed With Brazil

FL1802144593 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] On 17 February in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Cuba signed a bilateral agreement in the sphere of civil aviation that will strengthen trade and other ties between the two countries. The document must still be ratified by the two countries' legislatures. However, the parallel agreements allow for Brazil's and Cuba's effecting two weekly flights using planes of up to 300 passengers of one or the other nation. There is at present only one weekly flight, a Cubana de Aviacion charter flight that flies between Havana and Sao Paulo with special permission.

Asturian Solidarity Donation Arrives in Havana

FL1802225093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] This morning, the people of Havana congregated at Aracelio Iglesias Port to welcome the ship Maisi, which brought a donation from the Asturian port of Jijon. The solidarity donation consists primarily of two urban buses, two interprovincial buses, 15 tons of powdered milk, 11 tons of food, and school supplies, among other items. Among the people present was Ana Mier Prados, representing the Asturian Committee of Solidarity with Cuba and Against the Embargo, who said:

[Begin Mier recording] These donations come mainly from ordinary, humble people in Asturias, particularly the donations of food, clothes, school supplies, and toys. As I mentioned, they come from this type of people. What I want to stress is that this is not in any way—I say this from my heart—a gesture of charity by our people towards the Cuban people. Rather, it represents a gesture of support for and commitment to Cuba and in defense of its Revolution.

I witnessed how the people brought this donation to Jijon Port and said that these small packages they brought were not charity for the Cuban people but little packages representing solidarity and committed support for the Cuban Revolution. [applause] We are confident that you are now following the difficult path of rightness, and we will always try to support you.

Personally, I had the opportunity and luck of seeing that your Revolution is alive. I have spoken with people who have defended the accomplishments of your Revolution, even to the extent of giving their lives if it became necessary to defend it. All of these things are clear examples that you are not only not on the wrong path but that you should resist in order to continue this work. [end recording]

Solidarity with Cuba: a vote of confidence in our Revolution.

* Challenges Require Preservation of Values, Ethics

93CA0057F Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish 11 Jan 93 p 2

[Commentary by Lazaro Barredo Medina]

[Text] The greatest challenge 1993 brings to the Cuban nation is the need to surpass our efforts in our work and our priorities and to use every possible capacity to produce, especially goods that will bring in hard currency, and to expand our growing tourism industry.

Only in that way can we better face the uncertainty which the ups and downs of the foreign market may hold and our difficult coexistence with the United States, where until now certain sectors of the powerful elite have created a "dark night" for our national life. This is not a matter of "laying the blame" on imperialism. Our resistance is the only possible alternative, for what is at stake is our country, and it is becoming increasingly clear that our "crime" is not our political system, but rather our "obstinacy" in defending our sovereignty and being one of the very few countries in this world that has a true autonomous policy.

Even uncertainty is no disaster for us. This is not an isolated phenomenon affecting just Cuba, but rather the most predominant characteristic of the international arena today.

It is important to realize that the material limits facing Cuban society today have not been self-imposed, nor are they the results of our mistakes. They were imposed from outside with the "collapse" of the socialist bloc and the abrupt loss of our traditional markets, combined with the opportunistic reaction of the United States intensifying its aggression in an attempt to destroy us economically.

Its dual purpose has been to cause Cuba serious difficulties in its economic and trade relations with third countries and also to use those aggressions to accomplish what they have always wanted: to create a singular moment in Cuba's internal life that will endanger the values of our historic national program.

With total realism, without concealment, when we analyze frankly the exceptional situation we are experiencing, we cannot fail to see that the social reality of these moments is filled with problems that do logically provoke displays of irritation and dissatisfaction.

In difficult times, skeptics who magnify difficulties and minimize achievements always come out of the woodwork. There are also people who drop out through disappointment or who give up because they think solely about material well-being and do not care much about spiritual values. No one would question their right to express their doubts. This is their opportunity. They conceive the world as something idyllic and dream of a blend that not even fairy tales would include, of creating a consumer-oriented lifestyle that still offers the advantages of social justice.

This is also an opportunity for those who opportunistically make use of our present social problems to continue undermining Cuba, as the enemy proposes with their corrupt and criminal behavior. But this is equally an opportunity, and not just a matter of labels, for some who with leftist language talk in their meetings of "solutions." They try to be appealing but in the end they espouse a rightist program that would move backward. They do this with the calculated idea that they would be the ones who would live well, while the majority would be left to shift for themselves.

I think that if any lesson is inherent in the debacle that has happened in what was formerly socialist Europe, it is that power is no guarantee of winning the ideological struggle. The decisive force is the degree of popular conviction and the need for an ethic that preserves those values of the historic project with the conjunction of identity, the sense of national purpose, and the common interests of the masses.

Our people have the essential ingredients of sufficient loyalty, honor, and patriotism to enable them to face such phenomena and behavior.

This is their opportunity. If not, what are all the signs of change, of struggle, of transformation, this national dynamic effort to find solutions in the midst of the most arduous and complex situation a nation has ever faced in this world?

Of course, no one who sits back and does nothing will ever possess the magic formula of prosperity. No Good Samaritan is going to come from outside. No one is simply going to give us anything.

The challenge we face is to make hard work an everyday matter. We need to produce. We need to use everything. We need to extend the creative activity that is now opening up prospects in some provinces with the creation of local efforts to provide a response exceeding the demands of everyday life. We need to multiply this flowering of inventive and rational thinking.

Our strategy is clear. And these are not simply words that will degenerate into empty slogans. This strategy is based on solid pillars, including those that stand out as a priority in what is now being called the theory of the third industrial revolution, which predicts that biotechnology linked with computers will be the science of the 21st century, with talk of decisive elements such as the use of lasers and superconductive materials. These are areas in which our scientific sector is working on the forefront of scientific progress.

These efforts are not being made simply for the joy of scientific discovery. The eminent Brazilian scientist Darcy Ribeiro in a recent and very long interview dramatically predicted that if Brazil, which is a giant, is not capable of entering the world of science and living with it, it will be colonized to the point of having to buy coffee from the industrialized countries. When asked if the Third World will be able to make this leap forward, this was his reply:

"Of course. We have the example of Fidel Castro, who is very intelligent. Fidel has spent $200 million on scientific and technological development. Cuba's scientific program is now 10 times weaker than Brazil's; but there is one difference: in Brazil, science is for display. It exists to augment human knowledge, to publish papers abroad. In Cuba, science is productive. Scientists work to create useful things. This productive science is really much better than ours. Cuba has made a number of discoveries; it has a remedy against cardiac infarction that avoids surgery. It has a remedy to dissolve cholesterol and another that can accelerate the regeneration of the skin 10 times as fast in burn cases. It has interferon, interferon H, a chemical product useful in certain forms of cancer, and which is produced by only three countries in the world. Fidel thinks, and rightly so, that Cuba may in the future be able to make use of its wave of patents and live from its patented products."

In reality, we have invested much more than Ribeiro says. But his profound conviction demonstrates that we need time. With resistance, with the preservation of our values and our ethical system, we shall overcome. This is our opportunity.

* Fidel's 'Exceptional' Qualities Extolled

93CA0057E Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 3 Jan 93 p 12

[Review of Fidel's conversation with "Hoy Mismo" crew following his televised appearance on that program New Year's Eve, by Soledad Cruz]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In difficult moments, in bitter times of betrayals or attacks, our first thought is

"how will Fidel feel"? And when people see him content, his happiness is reproduced, amplified in everyone. Now that 1993 is about to begin, I will allow myself the very great pleasure of reminding everyone of our achievements at this end of the year.

They are not what the press in Miami is glorifying, of course. We are creating our true achievements here. With exemplary resistance in such a difficult year, with the Plaza filled with happiness, confidence, and love, this is a flight to immortality piloted by an exceptional man, a stubborn man, a man who clings to all the dreams that have led him to put aside the bonanzas of an easy life through inheritance and, instead, devote himself fully to the lasting pleasure of living for other people.

He devotes himself to matters as simple and as tremendous as probing the mysteries of the universe. He cares that his people develop themselves, that they have access to the best of what is created by this planet's inhabitants, while he also visits work groups and reviews agricultural plans, stimulating the maximum yields so that nourishment for neither the body nor the soul will be lacking.

History's dwarfs will blaspheme and slander him, will cite his mistakes and faults; as people said about Marti, the ungrateful were dissatisfied with the sun. But for his sensitive and intelligent people, it is enough to see him smiling to believe that the shadows are growing lighter, that victory is possible.

That is why we shall be more patriotic, more courageous, more revolutionary, as he asked of us in his message for the year that is beginning. We will not betray his confidence in us, for he has never betrayed our trust in him. That is the mystery which those who have not shared these 34 years of intimacy between the people and Fidel cannot understand, an intimacy that I have felt renewed and flourishing on this eve of 1993.

This is something that cannot be measured in statistics, but that can be felt near him: Fidel's eagerness to do all he can to improve the lives of the people. And when he sits down with the people, they clothe him in a thick mantle of unending devotion. That is why I can only relate this emotion to welcome in the new year.

* Cyclists Surveyed Concerning Problems

93CA0057D Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish 10 Jan 93 p 6

[Article by Carmen Caminas Lemes]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In our country, bicycles have never been widely used as a means of transportation, except in some places in the interior like Sagua la Grande, Caibarien, and Cardenas; instead, they have been reserved for recreation and sports. Bicycling on a large scale just got started during the last 30 years.

This means that the massive use of bikes as a form of transportation in villages, cities, and in the capital does not have much practical history, so its limited support and service infrastructure is quite unequal to the demands placed on it.

The bike was reborn in Cuba at a particularly difficult time. Two years after its introduction on a massive scale as a means of transportation, it still lacks a network of enough high quality repair and service shops that maintain long enough service hours.

The lack of parts for some models and sizes of bikes is evident, even though the assembly industry is making efforts to produce some items, and the few repair shops that do exist are taking steps to make sure that parts are not used for speculation.

Still, 25 percent of the 918 Havana residents polled by Cristiana Robaina of the investigative staff of JR [JUVENTUD REBELDE] answered that they had stopped using their bikes because they were broken, or because of the excessive hassles involved in getting them repaired. A total of 55.6 percent complained about the specific lack of inner tubes for tires; 19.4 percent about tires; 16.7 percent about pedals; 13.9 percent about brakes; and 11.1 percent about bearings.

They also pointed out as an added problem, and one taking on growing importance, the lack of equipment for putting air in tires and the dismal quality of the "pumps" that come with the accessory kits of Chinese bikes.

The range of comments about repair facilities varied. Some people interviewed said bike mechanics are skilled workers who develop real "engineering" solutions like makeshift valve repairs, while others complained about long lines, the need to pay tips, and the lack of this essential service at night.

Theft and the lack of bike racks and lockers were also mentioned by bike users. Of the sample questioned 20 percent considered parking facilities inadequate, while 34.4 percent said they were reluctant to use bikes for fear of being attacked on the streets.

The suggestion made to combine public bike parking facilities in high density areas with a full range of bike services does seem to be a worthwhile idea. At the present time, places that provide service belong to organizations and enterprises and operate on a specific schedule, while bicycles are not allowed access to public sites, nor is it safe to leave them unattended on the street with just a padlock. Excessive restrictions against bikes in times like the present do deserve censure.

The Bike User's Conflicts

While many people consider the daily use of bicycles good for the health (100 percent of those polled spoke of its benefits for the cardiovascular system, and 83.3 percent mentioned a reduction of excess fat), some said they really felt exhausted after biking.

As a consequence, they recommended establishing more places to sell beverages and cold drinks, like the popular

mobile carts that now operate at the entry to the iron bridge, near Miramar, and at 3d and 42d in Playa.

But the major problem troubling bike users is the pressure of traffic, sometimes because of their lack of experience with riding bikes, and in other cases (the majority) because of abuses by drivers of automotive vehicles against this most vulnerable form of transportation.

According to the office of traffic information, as of October throughout the nation there had been 716 accidents in which 140 people were killed and 560 were injured. Bikers were involved in 27 percent of these accidents; they represented 49 percent of the fatalities and 35 percent of the injuries.

Despite the negative record that still persists, there has been an 8 percent reduction in the accident rate involving bicycles, but the number of deaths increased by 75 and the number of injuries by 23.

This means that there were fewer accidents involving bicyclists, but the accidents that were reported were more dangerous. These accidents were primarily caused by failure to respect the right of way, traveling counter to the direction of traffic, the consumption of alcoholic beverages, and not properly controlling the bike.

Of the fatalities, 101 involved bicyclists-drivers and a passenger and motor vehicle passenger; 20 pedestrians were also killed or injured. The age group most affected was under 35.

The sample surveyed by JR cited the need to open places to teach safe bike skills and basic traffic regulations, and also to create a much more cooperative mentality among the police, so that they will not just stop cyclists to impose fines, but will also teach some highway safety rules. The primary schools could begin to do some of this.

The people interviewed also said they were somewhat concerned about compliance with street traffic signals for, along with special bike lanes, these signals are an extremely important safety measure.

Now that the bicycle, this clever invention, is 175 years old, in Cuba we are rediscovering all its potential benefits for the national economy, individual health, and the environment, but for these benefits to be fully realized, we need to pedal hard and not wait for sports-mindedness and individual creativity to overcome these obstacles on their own.

Dominica

Government Warns Latin America on Banana Issue

FL1402201993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1900 GMT 14 Feb 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Feb 14, CANA—Dominica has told banana-producing Latin American countries that their continuing efforts to drive Caribbean producers out of the European market could harm relations between the Caribbean and Latin America. A weekend statement issued by External Affairs Minister Brian Alleyne said Dominica viewed the persistent lobbying by the Latin Americans to end European preferential treatment for Caribbean bananas as a "most unfriendly" act.

"The Latin American position.... completely disregards the devastating impact that would follow on the Windward Islands economies should we lose the protection we traditionally enjoyed on the United Kingdom market," Alleyne said.

He added: "We consider the actions and declarations of the Latin American group to be most unfriendly and threaten the growing relationship between the Latin American countries and our countries."

The latest Latin bid to have a greater share of the European banana market failed early Saturday when European Community farm [word indistinct] formally adopted a system that imposes tariffs on Latin American bananas. It takes effect from July.

While more expensive Caribbean bananas will continue receiving preferential treatment within the framework of the Lome Convention, an economic treaty between the European Community and the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) group, the Latin Americans were given an annual 2 million tonne quota that will attract a tariff of U.S. $117 a tonne. Above the 2 million tonne level, the tariff will be $995.

Alleyne said that Latin American banana producers, mostly United States multinational corporations, already had a complete monopoly in North America and the lion's share of the European market. Caribbean banana exporters, especially the Windward Islands, which depend heavily on bananas for the bulk of their foreign exchange, have maintained that an end to European preferential treatment would trigger the collapse of their economies.

The Latin Americans are also challenging the European restrictions on their banana exports before the GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the global trade body.

Charles: Time Right for End of U.S. Cuba Embargo

FL1702203893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1909 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Feb 17, CANA—Dominica prime minister, Dame Eugenia Charles, believes the time may be right for Washington to lift its trade embargo imposed on Fidel Castro's Cuba 30 years ago. But Dame Eugenia is not optimistic that such a step will be taken in the near future.

"I don't think that the embargo should continue—they should let people trade with Cuba if they want to.... But

I don't see that happening no matter what administration is there," Charles said Tuesday on her return home from a U.S. trip during which she met President Bill Clinton and other top officials in Washington. She said that people would continue to go to Cuba and trade with Havana whether Washington opposed this.

"I have never been against trading with Cuba. I have no objection to letting them buy the things that I have here if I can sell it to them," Charles said. However, she feels the Cubans themselves can help speed up the lifting of the embargo by undertaking necessary reforms and holding general elections.

Dame Eugenia said the Americans still hold major concerns about Cuba: "They're really concerned about the human rights in Cuba, and they want to know that Cuba is democratic. I think what they want is people to be able to go freely to elect the leaders that they want."

She said that Cuban leader Castro could move towards the democratic process and she believes that he would convincingly win any general election called in Cuba now.

"Cuba could do it, because if it did, Castro would be elected handsomely again. So it's a good time for them (the U.S.) to lift the embargo while they have a leader that the people want," the Dominican leader said.

Opposition Labour Party leader Rosie Douglas, who returned from a recent trip to Cuba, believes some reforms may be forthcoming there. Douglas is optimistic that the trade embargo could be lifted by the Clinton administration at some stage in the future.

Haiti

Transporter Ship Sinks During Storm 17 Feb

Death Toll Estimated at 800

FL1802165993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] The Grand-Anse is in sorrow after the wreck of the ship Neptune during the night of 16 to 17 February off Miragoane. No specific estimate of the dead or missing has been established so far. According to various sources, the ship was carrying between 1,000 and 2,000 people and only 100 are reported to have succeeded in reaching the coast towns of Miragoane, Petit-Goave, and Leogane. Our correspondent in Jeremie has the following report:

[Begin correspondent recording in Creole] More than 800 people are reported to have lost their lives and 66 others are reported safe in the wreck of a ship in Petit-Goave Bay. The Neptune, which serves traffic between Jeremie and Port-au-Prince every Tuesday, sank as it was traveling to Port-au-Prince in the Petit-Goave Sea. The first yet unconfirmed information from Petit-Goave advises that more than 800 people are reported dead and that 66 others have been found alive. This news caused great sorrow in Jeremie on 17 February. Several families whose relatives were on board are inconsolable. The wreck of the Neptune, overloaded with people and goods, has created great sorrow in Jeremie, especially among the peasant population, from which most of the passengers originated. National harbor authorities in Jeremie, who are responsible for watching ship loading, have not yet provided the number of passengers on board. As soon as we have more information, we will advise. [end recording]

Searches Continue

FL1802215493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Following the wreck of the ship Neptune, the U.S. Coast Guard has begun searches in Haitian waters for possible survivors and also to recover the bodies of the victims. According to the captain of the ship, the accident was caused when a strong rain storm surprised the ship off Maragoane and the passengers panicked.

Now, searches continue in an effort to find possible survivors. Three Haitian Coast Guard ships and several planes are involved in the searches. According to an officer of the Haitian Army General Staff, 83 people were rescued in Petit-Goave.

Information is not available regarding possible survivors in Leogane. The officer was not able to give the exact number of passengers who were on board at the time of the accident, nor is anything known about the victims whose bodies were found.

We have just learned....[break in reception]

[Begin Jean-Marie Robert Sine recording] [Words indistinct] have been working since last night to recover people from the sea; they are caring for the victims; they are sending a message to the Haitian Coast Guard to get involved because many thieves are hitting the people in the water to steal their bags and searching for money. [end recording]

Death Toll 'Could Go Over 1,000'

FL1802214193 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1730 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] At least 800 people have been reported dead in the wreck of a transport ship, the Neptune, on a regular trip between Jeremie and Port-au-Prince on the night of 16 February. According to National Harbor authorities in Port-au-Prince, however, the final number of victims could go over 1,000 based on the testimony of relatives of the passengers on the ship. In Miami, Florida, the U.S. Coast Guard also estimated the number of possible victims of this wreck at 800 while specifying that the information was from indirect and unconfirmed sources.

According to estimates, the ship, overloaded with passengers and goods, was carrying between 1,000 and

2,000 people. It has been the only ship to make a regular trip between Jeremie and Port-au-Prince. According to first accounts, including the account by the ship's captain, Benjamin Saint-Clair, less than 100 people succeeded in reaching the coast by swimming. Some 25 survivors were picked up in Mariani. Other survivors are reported to have reached other points on the coast while some survivors were reportedly rescued by fishermen from La Gonave Island.

The drama occurred on Wednesday, 17 February at 0600 GMT off the coast of Miragoane. According to the first witnesses, a storm reportedly caused panic among the passengers, who moved from one side to the other, which made the ship sink when one of its upper structures collapsed. The announcement of the wreck on 17 February in Jeremie provoked scenes of despair. Parents or relatives of the passengers expressed their sorrow by crying and grieving in the streets.

This is not the first time a drama like this has occurred in Haiti. Numerous similar ship wrecks making trips between Jeremie or the island of La Gonave and Port-au-Prince have killed several thousand people over the past few years. La Jeremienne, Saint-Moise, Syrene, Primadona, Florida, Saint-Louis, Celi and Saint-Sauveur are some we can name.

Hospital Receives Survivors

FL1902001893 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 2100 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The general hospital began receiving, at around 1900 GMT, the survivors of the tragedy. By 2100 GMT, the hospital received 55 people, men and women who survived the wreck.

[Passage omitted] It was reported that among the 150 survivors who reached La Gonave or Petit-Goave many of them were rescued thanks to cows that were on board that sank then floated. The survivors used them as lifebuoys, which helped them reach the coasts. Other survivors said that they used bags of coal and bags of coconuts that were on the ferry to help them reach land. Others reported that they used empty containers to help them.

Haitian authorities have started a rescue operation along with the Haitian Coast Guard, the Haitian Navy, and with the help of U.S. Coast Guard planes that are still trying to find bodies.

The ferry boat Neptune has been the only boat making a trip between Port-au-Prince and Jeremie. Another ferry boat, Caridad, which used to make the trip, is under repairs. Since the Neptune was the only boat in service, there were at least 2,000 people on board from Jeremie, most of whom are salespeople.

On the morning of 17 February, fishermen from La Gonave Island were rescuing survivors who had already spent hours swimming. The tragedy took place during the morning of 17 February at 0600 GMT, near Miragoane. [passage omitted]

Man Hijacks Domestic Airliner 18 Feb

FL1802211993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2000 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] A man carrying a .38-caliber revolver allegedly hijacked a small domestic airliner in Cap-Haitian today. No details are known of the hijacker's identity. This man, carrying a .38-caliber revolver, took hostage a woman accompanying him and boarded the plane. The plane was hijacked toward the Bahamas.

At this time, we have learned that the plane landed in Providenciales, in Caicos Island, to refuel then continue toward Miami. An investigation has been opened in Cap-Haitian. At this time the identity of the hijacker has not been revealed.

14 People Said on Board

FL1802235093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 2100 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] A DC-3 plane belonging to MAF, Missionary Aviation Fellowship, was hijacked. A Haitian citizen who is allegedly carrying a .38-caliber revolver hijacked the plane with 14 people on board, including the crew, to go to Miami. According to the Federal Aviation Office, the hijacker appears to have taken a woman hostage in Cap-Haitian and forced her to go on board. He also demanded that the plane go to Miami. The plane stopped in Providenciales at Caicos Island Airport to refuel before heading to Miami.

Parliamentary Activities Continue at Standstill

FL1802233993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Parliament is still expected to resume its activities. Neither of the two chambers has been able to hold a session. Ansy-Rose Resignac filed the following report.

[Begin Resignac recording] The newly formed office at the Chamber of Deputies attempted to hold its first session on 17 February, but this session, which should have apparently seen the resumption of this branch of the parliament's activities, could not be held for lack of a quorum.

Two roll calls, the first at approximately 1230 and the second a half hour later, reflected the presence of 28 and 30 deputies, all members of the Alliance for the Parliamentary Cohesion and the Socialist group—two blocs that make the governmental majority—and supported by the four newly elected members. According to the National Front for Change and Democracy deputies and their allies which form the minority opposition, the

fifth session, which will allow the lower chamber to work, has not yet opened. These deputies were conspicuous by their absence.

At the Senate also, the activities were at a standstill. Neither of the two offices that compose the upper house held a session. A few senators of the constitutionalist bloc were milling around in the session room of the upper house. The members of the office, led by Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton, for their part were working on various issues with regard to the administration of the Senate. This 17 February would have been the umpteenth day of an almost inactive parliament, which expects a solution from its members. [end recording]

Trinidad and Tobago

Rumors of Coup Halt Plans for National Strike

FL1802134693 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Trinidad's national trade union center, NATUC, has called off a national strike that had been set for late next week. Lional Dixon has a report.

[Begin Dixon recording] The [word indistinct] called off the national strike originally scheduled for Friday, the 26th of this month, and one of the major reasons for this is the rumor of attempts to overthrow the elected government. In the state bond issued yesterday, NATUC's president Erroll McCloud said the senders' executives met in emergency session yesterday to review the current industrial relations climate under the government's latest position on pay [passage indistinct] public and sugar workers, and according to Mr. McCloud, the meeting agreed that there would be no trade union demonstration around the Red House on Friday. He said instead workers are being asked to wear black.

NATUC is also scheduled to meet with business organizations, police associations, and the head of the defense force with a view to establish a mutual understanding for the benefit of the entire nation. [end recording]

Government Suspends Pay Increases Granted in Jan

FL1902005893 Bridgetown CANA in English 2250 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 18, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago cabinet decided on Thursday to suspend controversial pay increases which were granted last January. A release from the Government Information Service said the suspension is effective from 1 March.

Last January, Parliament granted cabinet ministers, parliamentarians [mp's], and senior public servants salary increases agreed upon by the salaries review commission. That decision was harshly criticised by both opposition and independent members of the House of Representatives and the Senate and by the trade union movement.

Many observers thought the move ill-timed since government was at the same time asking public sector workers to wait for their backpay which was agreed upon in 1989 by the industrial court. Observers identified the salary issue as one of the chief causes of a recent upsurge in industrial unrest which saw a large protest demonstration outside Parliament last Friday. Some of the placards at that demonstration and at another on Friday, February 5, pointed to the increase as a main grouse of the workers. However, government spokesmen including Prime Minister Patrick Manning and Public Information Minister Senator Gordon Draper, had defended the increases saying that no time would be the right time and citing the amount of responsibility in the hands of a minister compared with the salary earned.

With the suspension, ministers will revert to a monthly salary of 8,800 dollars (1 TT dollar = 23.5 cents U.S.) instead of the 12,000 dollars approved by Parliament. A senior division of information official told CANA Thursday that parliamentarians and senior public servants were not affected by the cabinet decision.

The government statement said while government remained convinced that it was necessary to upgrade salaries of mp's and senior public officers from 1983 levels, it had taken heed of the call for cabinet members "to show the way in the sacrifices that must be made at all levels of the society."

Costa Rica

Calderon, Ecuadoran President Sign Declaration

PA1902003893 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier and Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen discussed economic, social, and political issues. They then signed a joint declaration to seal the Ecuadoran president's official visit to this country.

During a second round of discussions at the Presidential Palace, the presidents outlined the final details of the issues to be included in the final joint declaration. The document reaffirms their faith in the representative and pluralistic democratic system and expresses support to the United Nations for its tasks of safeguarding international peace and security. It also points out the need for all the nations of this hemisphere to have greater representation on all OAS commissions.

The presidents of Ecuador and Costa Rica expressed their firm belief that the interests of the Latin American community demands a policy of maintaining permanent dialogue to achieve true Latin American integration. In this context, and as a result of the formation of worldwide economic and trade blocs, their interest in furthering the insertion and integration of their respective regions was reiterated. They also agreed to undertake efforts aimed at strengthening the existing ties within the Central American market.

Furthermore, they agreed to present a common front at the world conference on human rights to be held in Vienna in June. The joint declaration by the Costa Rican and Ecuadoran presidents is clear, stating concern and rejection of the EC's position regarding the restriction of imports on the Latin American banana. This not only limits and violates the principle of free trade under the GATT system and the Uruguay Round but it also has serious effects on the development of banana producing nations.

In the bilateral field, both presidents agreed that the current political and trade ties will be strengthened and that these will be extended to economic, technical, tourism, and cultural cooperation.

In a complementary agreement signed by the presidents of Ecuador and Costa Rica both nations will broaden technical assistance and cooperation. Improvement in agricultural production will be fostered for nontraditional export products through cooperation and the reciprocal use of human and economic resources of institutions of both nations.

They also intend to attract investment by drafting programs to publicize the current laws. They will also promote technical assistance and training regarding agricultural exports.

El Salvador

FMLN Says Missiles Destroyed as 'Sign of Goodwill'

One-Third of Missiles Said Destroyed

PA1802171593 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] According to Salvador Samayoa, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] leader, the FMLN has destroyed one-third of its missiles because it trusts that President Cristiani will meet his commitment regarding the Armed Forces purge.

Samayoa said that the destruction of these sophisticated weapons was officially tied to the Armed Forces purge by the government. Nevertheless, he said that each of the organizations that form the FMLN has now reached an agreement with the United Nations on the date and manner in which these weapons will be destroyed. Here is Samayoa:

[Being Samayoa recording] What has happened is that we are quite convinced—given the development of events and the position adopted by the UN Security Council—we are quite convinced [repeats himself] that the president will have to take the corresponding measures. At any rate, a significant part of the purge is in process and we believe that progress will continue. It would not be wise to say exactly when this will take place; nevertheless, missile destruction can proceed. [end recording]

According to Samayoa, initiating missile destruction is a FMLN sign of goodwill although he said there are good reasons to believe the government will comply.

[Begin Samayoa recording] I believe, in the first place, that the government has no interest—particularly in an election year—it has no interest [repeats himself] to appear before the community as a government or as a government party that does not meet its commitment. This is even more true for issues that have nationwide interest. In the second place, the government has no interest in losing ground, suffering isolation, or international pressure. [end recording]

According to Samayoa, until now they have destroyed 20 missiles; that is, one-third of the total amount delivered to the United Nations. He assured that this is not a means of pressure on the government to meet its commitment to purge the Armed forces; rather, it is a call similar to the one made by the UN secretary general in this regard.

Surface-to-Air Missiles Said Destroyed

PA1802180793 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report by Dagoberto Corea]

[Excerpts] Leonel Gonzalez, leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, on 17 February said that the FMLN began destroying the surface-to-air missiles as a sign of goodwill.

Gonzalez on 17 February stated that the FMLN began destroying surface-to-air missiles in the eastern part of the country as a sign of its goodwill in complying with the peace accords. Gonzalez said that the FMLN hopes that with this sign of flexibility the government will also take specific steps to complete the purge of the Armed Forces and the transfer of land.

Gonzalez, whose true name is Salvador Sanchez Ceren, said that the FMLN will request a report from the UN secretary general on the purge of the military. [passage omitted]

Gonzalez said that transferring land poses certain obstacles. [passage omitted]

Finally, Gonzalez said that the land problem results from bureaucracy, adding that the delivery of ownership titles is being delayed, which, he said, slows down the process, raising doubts among residents over their permanence on the lands they occupy.

Twenty-five surface-to-air missiles owned by the FMLN in the eastern part of the country were destroyed between 13 and 16 February, a FMLN spokesman reported.

A spokesman of the former Peoples Revolutionary Army, ERP, said that the last four missiles of the FMLN in the eastern part of the country were destroyed on 16 February in Perquin, Morazan. On the weekend of 13 February, experts destroyed 21 missiles in the town of Perquin, Morazan, and Las Marias, Usulutan Jurisdiction, the ERP spokesman said.

The destruction of the missiles was scheduled for 15 December, but the FMLN had postponed it until the government purged 15 top military officers excluded by President Alfredo Cristiani from a list of more than 100 officers to be purged.

Asked on 16 February, the UN observers for El Salvador, Onusal, refused to comment on the destruction of sophisticated FMLN weapons in the eastern part of the country.

Norma Guevara, a member of the FMLN Political Commission, said she did not know of the missile destruction. She recalled that the destruction of the missiles was subject to the Armed Forces purge.

FMLN Leader States Opposition to Death Penalty

PA1802175093 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] on 17 February said that reinstating the death penalty is not an effective way to fight crime. According to Salvador Samayoa, such drastic measures against crime cannot be requested when all available means to fight crime have not been used.

In addition, Samayoa stated that in the future Arena [National Republican Alliance] could use the death penalty against the political opposition.

[Begin Samayoa recording] Concerning the death penalty, we have three basic objections: First, it has not been demonstrated in other parts of the world to be an effective procedure. In the United States, for example, there is the case of a state where the death penalty is in effect yet a neighboring state—with the same or similar sociological and economic conditions—has a lower crime rate. Nowhere in the world has it been demonstrated that the death penalty is an effective means to resolve the problem.

Second, we have a legitimate concern that this penalty could be used in time to intimidate or repress people for other reasons, namely political differences; therefore, the death penalty should be studied with great political responsibility and from all angles.

Third, neither Arena, which is campaigning so hard in favor of the death penalty, nor the government have made an effective proposal to fight crime. If the means to fight crime have really been exhausted, we would think that a measure of this nature could be considered. We would not oppose the discussion of such measures, because we support drastic sanctions against criminals. [end recording]

Samayoa called on the Salvadoran Government to act with responsibility in this case. In addition, he criticized the government intention to send the Army into the streets to fight crime. These statements were made by the FMLN political leader on the morning of 17 February during a news conference in which he discussed the issue of the destruction of surface-to-air missiles.

For Samayoa, the missiles are no longer a pressure factor preventing President Cristiani from fulfilling the Army purge. He said that changes in this regard can already be perceived.

Pacas on Central American Meeting With EC

PA1802174093 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas Castro received the credentials from the new EC ambassador on 16 February. Pacas reported on the preparations for the Central American summit on drugs and the meeting on trade between Central America and Europe.

The foreign minister said everything is ready for the summit where future EC cooperation with Central America will be determined.

[Begin recording] [Pacas] Traditionally, this has been a political and economic dialogue held with the EC. This dialogue began with the Treaty of Luxembourg, a treaty

that already rendered the fruits that were expected; therefore, a new treaty will be signed.

[Unidentified reporter] Won't the Costa Rican stand on banana exports affect this meeting?

[Pacas] I don't think so. It is a circumstantial problem and the EC adopted a policy regarding it. We hope the San Salvador meeting will not become a banana forum, although the banana problem is included. This issue is important for Central American countries but it is not for us. We feel, however, that the relations of cooperation and the political and economic dialogue we are successfully holding with the EC are also very important. [end recording]

Prior to the meeting of foreign ministers, the presidents of the region will meet in Belize to discuss drug trafficking.

[Begin Pacas recording] On 19 February, the presidents will meet to discuss this very important issue. We are working on agreements hoping to see if they can be implemented. It is important, however, for authorities to take coordinated action as it has become evident that Central America has become a bridge a route, for drug trafficking. [end recording]

Honduras

Police Security Chief Presents Report on Crime

PA1902042293 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 18 Feb 93 p 7

[Excerpts] Colonel Mario Hung Pacheco, chief of the Public Security Force, on 17 February briefed the Legislative Branch on the proliferation of crime in the country and on the internal situation of the police corps.

Col. Hung Pacheco also presented several charts showing data on crimes that have occurred during the first 45 days of 1993. He also discussed charges that have been leveled against military personnel at the Professional Responsibility Office (ORP) in 1992.

While explaining the statistics on the crimes, the police chief told the members of the chamber that he preferred not to disclose too many details regarding the deaths of businessmen Wilfredo Agurcia Lefebvre and Eduardo Pina Van Tuyl, attorney Armando Villanueva Chinchilla, and the attack against Yanny Rosenthal.

Before answering questions, he warned them: "We have clues regarding several people but please understand we cannot discuss them in public because if we mention a person who turns out to be innocent, we could tarnish their honor."

He said, however, "if you wish, we can disclose all the information to the Board of Directors, the Defense and Security Commission, or another special commission appointed for that purpose, because disclosing it now would undermine the investigations."

Col. Hung Pacheco also said that the policy of the military corps is one of respect for the law and recognition to the military courts. Under that premise, they are fully aware of the fact that any member who has committed a crime will be turned over to the courts, which may sentence or absolve them.

As an example, he mentioned the fact that they delivered to the courts the two officers who are members of a car theft gang that the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights has pointed out as responsible for the death of Pina Van Tuyl.

"This proves that we do not protect or seek to protect any member who breaks the law nor do we allow impunity for illegal acts," he said.

Using the comparison charts, Hung Pacheco explained that the reports of criminal acts have increased from 8,324 cases in 1988 to 12,676 cases in 1993. [passage omitted]

Hung Pacheco reported that in 1992 the authorities seized 4,288 lbs of cocaine, 236 rocks of crack, 1,139 lbs of marijuana, 5.5 lbs of marijuana seeds, and 109,684 marijuana plants. He added that 1,442 people were arrested and presented to the courts on drug charges and 52 were delivered to the Immigration Department.

Between 1 January and 16 February 1993, they seized 26 ounces of cocaine, 26 ounces from one person, and 12 grams from another [figures as published]. Furthermore, they have seized 273.5 lbs of marijuana, 2.5 lbs of marijuana seeds, and 12 ounces of marijuana separately. [passage omitted]

Alleged Businessman Killer Claims Military Orders

PA1802153893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1921 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] San Jose, 17 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The alleged killer of Honduran businessman Eduardo Pina van Tuyl might be under arrest and isolated in a military installation. The crime was perpetrated in Honduras and led to journalist Eduardo Coto's exile. A handwritten letter received by NOTIMEX in this city includes the name and signature of the alleged killer, Manuel Montoya Espinoza, who claims he is under arrest at the 105th Infantry Brigade in San Pedro Sula, located in northern Honduras.

Montoya, 32 years old, confesses he murdered the businessman, adding that he is a member of Honduran Army counterintelligence and acted upon "orders from his superiors." Montoya's letter, dated 12 February from San Pedro Sula, says Honduran Army Majors Jorge Montanola and Raul Gutierrez and Second Lieutenant Allan Valladares were "chiefs of the operation" to kill Pina van Tuyl.

The military officer, who does not specify his rank in the letter, says he is afraid for his life because he knows the Honduran Army would close the case and officers

involved in the businessman's death would not be unmasked if he is killed. Montoya mentions "comrades who have given me their support" and "the bearer of this note who, in a courageous gesture, has made it possible for me to write these words—perhaps the last ones in my life—and I hope someone heeds them."

Pina van Tuyl, 26 years old, was shot to death on 29 January in San Pedro Sula and his assassins were filmed by Honduran journalist Eduardo Coto when they fled. The reporter received death threats so he requested asylum from the Spanish Government. The asylum was granted as a result of Amnesty International mediation.

The Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee identified three military officers from composite pictures that were prepared based on Coto's testimony. The Honduran Army admitted one of the men, 2d Lt. Allan Valladares, is a soldier. According to journalist Coto, Valladares was driving the motorcycle in which Montoya fled. Nevertheless, the Honduran Armed Forces denied Montoya was a member of its ranks.

Montoya said in his letter General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, the Armed Forces commander, sent him to train in "the savage craft of sowing deaths" so he earned the nickname of "the agronomist" within the Honduran Army. "I want to face the law if I survive. If not, may Jesus Christ send me to hell, where there are probably many worshipers of the dirty war hatchet," it was stated by the confessed killer at the end of his letter.

The "dirty war" mentioned by Montoya is the repressive policy that, according to humanitarian organizations, was enforced throughout Honduras in the 1970s, when approximately 150 social leaders were killed or reported missing.

Tegucigalpa newspaper EL HERALDO reported on 17 February that the Honduran Armed Forces do not rule out the participation of "middle level" military officers in Pina van Tuyl's assassination. Unidentified military sources told the newspaper a "large group of intelligence agents" was sent to the northern Honduran city to discover the killers.

According to the report, the recent removal of Julio Cesar Chavez, regional Public Security Forces (FSP-Police) commander in northern Honduras, was prompted because "he had lost control of certain midlevel officers." The sources told the newspaper more than one subaltern might have used his position to order Pina van Tuyl's assassination due to problems concerning drug-trafficking activities.

The sources quoted by EL HERALDO said the Honduran Armed Forces commander is determined to send to court any officer involved in the assassination. The report added the group of intelligence agents "is reportedly carrying out an in-depth investigation among midlevel FSP officers to establish their probable participation in the bloody incident that ended in Pina van Tuyl's death."

Police forces are under Army command in Honduras.

Nicaragua

Peasants Say New Armed Group Organizing in North

PA1802184993 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] According to a group of peasants, a new armed organization is being organized in the northern part of the country. The new armed organization is called Cobra and mainly contains former Somozist guards and contras. It has also been reported that a Honduran citizen or, better said, a Honduran citizen with U.S. documents, who is known only by the nickname Victor, is actively organizing the new armed Cobra group. The peasants also reported that the new organization has already started to operate in El Jocote, La Lagunillas, and San Isidro, Matagalpa.

Democratic Party Deputy Said To Bribe CPT

PA1802184193 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Social Democratic Party Deputy Alfredo Cesar is trying to bribe the Permanent Workers' Congress, CPT, so that it stays in the National Opposition Union-Political Opposition Alliance, UNO-APO. CPT sources have revealed that Cesar gave $2,000 to Deputy Adolfo Jarquin Fortel to be used to bribe the CPT directors to get them to decide at the CPT assembly on 17 February to remain in the UNO-APO.

The CPT congress is headed by Roberto Moreno of the Central Organization of Trade Union Action, CAUS, who recently announced that the CPT would separate from the UNO because they were spreading lies about the workers.

At a recent meeting, the UNO political council said Roberto Moreno and Jose Espinoza of the Confederation for Unity of Trade Unions had sold out to the government. Such statements led the union leaders to announce their separation from UNO ranks. They added that they would not be swayed by political interests to abandon the workers' authentic demands.

After the 17 February assembly meeting, we will know if Cesar's dollars are more effective than the CPT leaders' will to continue to fight for their members' needs.

Swedish Cooperation To Assist Judicial Branch

PA1802183593 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 16 Feb 93

[Text] Alf Samuelsson, Swedish deputy foreign cooperation and human rights minister [title as heard], arrived in the country on 15 February accompanied by top officials from his ministry. Mr. Samuelsson was received by Sergio Mario Blandon, his Nicaraguan counterpart.

[Begin Samuelsson recording in Swedish with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] Given the fact that Nicaragua is one of the most important countries with which we are cooperating, it is important to note that we are following the political-economic developments with great interest. As for cooperation, we are bringing a proposal from Sweden that we hope to discuss with the Nicaraguan Government. [end recording]

Samuelsson met with Nicaraguan Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger and on the afternoon of 15 February he met with President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. An agreement to support the Supreme Court was later signed for $3.7 million, which will strengthen the Judicial Branch and be financed by Sweden and the UN Development Program. Assistance for the Judicial Branch will consist of the construction of 100 courthouses.

Dr. Orlando Trejos, the Supreme Court president, said most of the courthouses will be built in areas inhabited by repatriated people.

[Begin Trejos recording] We necessarily require in those areas the presence of judges who can better understand the problems that emerge as a result of the conclusion of the war. We need promoters of democracy and defenders of human rights who can apply the law with justice and equality. [end recording]

Support for the Supreme Court comes within the framework of strengthening the state of law and, especially, the strengthening of the Judicial Branch.

Panama

Ford Threatens To Dismiss Striking Workers

PA1802232893 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 Feb 93 p A1

[Report by Carmen Elida Contreras]

[Text] On 17 February, Vice President Guillermo Ford said that public employees who threaten to implement measures of pressure will be dismissed.

"Any public official who threatens to use coercive measures will be fired; a strong government is needed here," Ford said. He explained that the state should meet workers' salary requests only when their demands are fair, because many times "the government says no and ends up paying anyway."

The statements by Ford came after Xiomara Ambulo, secretary general of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees (Fenasep), stated this week that Fenasep may adopt forceful measures if the government insists on implementing the Voluntary Resignation Program and privatization.

The vice president said that public employees have an obligation to respect the law and "serve taxpayers," who pay their salaries. Therefore, he continued, "we cannot go from threat to threat."

Ford voiced his concern, however, over the 18-day-old nationwide strike by more than 2,000 workers of the National Water and Sanitation Institute (IDAAN). He remarked that Endara's government should find a short-term solution to the strike.

IDAAN workers are demanding the implementation of a new basic wage scale beginning with the new fiscal period, travel allowances, and wage increases based on years of service and, among other things, overtime payment when rendered.

According to IDAAN leaders, the basic wage scale request is included in the current year's state budget and Comptroller General Ruben Carles has refused to recognize it. In addition, Carles refused to pay the first biweekly payment of this month.

"I am not very familiar with this matter. I have always said that every official has the right to want better wages, considering the reality of the national budget," Ford warned.

The Association of Professors of the Republic is also demanding a wage increase and has threatened to begin a strike if Education Minister Marco Alarcon does not meet its request.

Nonetheless, Alarcon has said on many occasions that this year the teachers received a pay increase and if they adopt forceful measures, the time lost will not be remunerated.

Minister on Negotiations for Kidnappees' Release

PA1902121293 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Government Minister Juan Chevalier reported that negotiations are being conducted for the release of the three U.S. kidnapped missionaries.

[Begin Chevalier recording] We are not conducting negotiations directly with the people who are holding the missionaries captive. The missionaries' own organization, the New Tribes mission, is handling the matter. These negotiations are very slow and difficult. The less the Public Force interferes, the better. Even the U.S. Embassy has not tried to mediate. Let us keep in mind that a guerrilla is geared to violence. His is the mind of a man who lives in the jungle, very different from that of a city dweller. Consequently, it is necessary to be very careful. They should not be led to think that a trap is being laid for them because this could cost the missionaries their lives. I believe we all want them to return safe and sound. [end recording]

Legislature Approves ARI Bill in Third Debate

PA1902154693 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 19 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Eduardo Soto P.]

[Text] The Interoceanic Region Authority [ARI] was approved in its third debate by 45 legislators out of 58 who were present at the 18 February plenary debates.

The bill had the votes of all the government legislators and most of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] ones. The 10 votes against the bill came mostly from Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] legislators and at least one PDC legislator. Three legislators abstained.

Mario Galindo, finance and treasury minister, represented the government and attended all the debates on the ARI bill. Once it was approved, he said the law solves a problem that required a "quick solution."

Galindo said that the "reversion is speeding up," and we must take action regarding land and resources that will pass into Panamanian jurisdiction in the future and those that have been transferred during the past 14 years to avoid their continued deterioration.

Galindo said, however, that the law by itself will not solve problems. "The problems will be solved by the men and women on the ARI board and administration, the high official said. [no ending quotation mark as published]

The PRD bloc asserted that it will challenge the law on unconstitutionality charges at the Supreme Court of Justice once it is sanctioned by President Guillermo Endara.

Panel Discusses Interoceanic Region Authority Bill

PA1602011593 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1607 GMT 14 Feb 93

["Finding Solutions" panel discussion program with moderator Julio Miller; Guillermo Cochez, Christian Democratic Party legislator; Balbina Herrera, Democratic Revolutionary Party legislator; Olimpo Saenz, Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement legislator; and Ray Bishop, president of the Armed Forces Employees Union Local 907]

[Excerpts] [Miller] We start our panel discussion on the Interoceanic Region Authority, ARI, bill. Legislator Saenz, what is the situation at the Legislative Assembly? The ARI bill has been there for a long time and there has been little discussion or progress. What is the problem?

[Saenz] I believe we do not have consensus, especially with the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, bloc. The PRD does not agree with the original bill or with the modifications introduced by the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, bloc.

The Legislative Assembly bylaws stipulate the legislators' rights and responsibilities. Using its rights, the PRD bloc debates the bill and its modifications in a manner that does not allow us to move more quickly than we are doing.

We would probably not have had such a long delay if we had a consensus with the PRD. The delay drains the legislators and the people who are waiting for a positive solution to the problem of the reverted areas.

The reverted areas were received by the government in 1979 and since then almost nothing has been done to turn this wealth into a source of advantage for Panamanians, especially for the poor and most needy citizens.

Thus, the reason for the obstacles encountered by the bill in the Legislative Assembly is a lack of consensus. We have been unable to agree on a bill that is of utmost importance to all Panamanians, especially because we have a 14-year delay in dealing with the reverted areas.

[Miller] Legislator Balbina, what, in your opinion, is the root of the problem?

[Herrera] I believe we have to define the problem and then see where it is located. We have to state publicly that this bill was rejected in the first debate at the subcommission. From the start, seven legislators at the Canal Commission were unable to reach a consensus on this bill. After that, the Legislative Assembly board decided to present the bill, which had been rejected by the commission, to be debated at special meetings. Obviously, the bill did not have a consensus from the start.

Later, the PDC reconciles its position on the bill with the government and it is presented for a second debate. I, however, ask: Was the conciliation only among themselves? The rest....[pauses] Why should we not strive for national consensus, which is constantly being mentioned, on a bill that is, hypothetically, so important and we do believe it is the most important bill after the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties? Why not take the document sent by the Executive Branch and modified by the Legislative Assembly and present it to a national debate? We have said: Let us allow for a national debate on the bill during February and March. We could then approve the bill immediately upon returning to session in March.

[Miller] It is said you are trying to sink the bill.

[Herrera] No. What is really happening is that we are making another law right now. That is the truth and the reason for the bill's delay. The law is being remade at the Legislative Assembly plenary. The hardest part is that the new bill is going through first and second debate at the same time because many legislators did not have the necessary information on the modifications. Using Panamanian jargon, the law is being patched up at the assembly, which is the true reason for the delay.

[Miller] Who is to blame?

[Herrera] We blame the Executive Branch as it knew the bill had been rejected by the Canal Commission. The Executive should have begun to explain the bill right after that. The Executive Branch has the media sources to do so. It could have contacted the television stations to broadcast the information. It could have held the necessary forums.

[Miller] What about the legislators?

[Herrera] We would have been there. We would have taken care of the bill in March. I can assure you the bill would have been approved in March with everybody's approval. I want to ask you an honest question: How many Panamanians know the contents of the bill we currently are debating in the Legislative Assembly? Why do I ask? Because, although the president appointed an ad hoc commission, which included political parties, to discuss the bill, the information remained at that level. It did not reach all the sectors in our society. We have to be responsible and admit this to be a fact.

Why is it now said that we are trying to sink the bill? Gentlemen, we have to point out aspects of the bill that we are required to. We have to present our position when the articles of the bill are being discussed. We have to debate such issues. We have.... [pauses] We are not opposing the bill just out of spite. We are presenting our arguments. We cannot, for example, agree with articles that create an autonomous institution, which will handle from $20 to $30 billion, that will not even be supervised by the comptroller general or vetoed by the president of the Republic. We would be irresponsible if we approved the article.

[Miller] How do you see the problem, Bishop?

[Bishop] Between 80 and 90 percent of Panamanians do not know what is happening with that unfortunate law. Legislator Saenz said this bill should be debated exclusively from a political standpoint. I wonder, however, and ask Legislator Saenz: What about the people? What is there for the people who are the true heir of those areas? They all have the right to know about and participate in the debates on the areas. The people were denied this opportunity from the very beginning.

[Miller] But it is being debated in the assembly, isn't it?

[Bishop] It is being debated in the assembly, but as Saenz said, the debate is centering merely on the political aspect of the reversion of all goods, infrastructure, properties, and everything else that is reverting to Panama. We wonder: What do those areas mean to the common Panamanian? What is there for the people? What we have heard so far is pure demagoguery. Legislators, who unsuccessfully tried to pass an unfortunate constitutional amendment bill, are participating in this panel. The people will know how to use the ARI bill to settle accounts with them.

It is not possible to discuss a bill that will, quote, benefit, unquote, Panamanians, according to these legislators, 16 years after the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. I say...

[Miller, interrupting] What are your specific proposals?

[Bishop] We propose immediate suspension of the debate on this bill. We repeat, it is a sterile discussion. We want the people, through a consensus, to determine the future and adequate use of those areas.

[Miller] But should we let them deteriorate without justification in the meantime?

[Bishop] Absolutely not, Mr. Miller. Local 907 wanted this issue included in the constitutional amendments. That bill was a flop. The government allowed itself the luxury of wasting $10 million, which was needed urgently to promote an economic take off, on that bill. Nothing was accomplished but $10 million went down the drain.

[Miller] Legislator Cochez, what is the PDC stand on this issue?

[Cochez] There is a fact: Those reverted goods have been there for 16 years. They have been idle, have not been incorporated into national development. There now is a consensus that we should not allow these goods to further deteriorate. An ad hoc commission, which was established by the president of the Republic and made up of members of the PRD, PDC, and government parties, has debated this issue for more than a year.

The Legislative Assembly has debated this issue for more than eight months. The first and second debates were poorly conducted perhaps because of a lack of leadership. What are we waiting for? I think a consensus has not yet been reached because some people do not seem to want one. I congratulate the PRD in the past few weeks for finally sitting down and saying: This is what we want. Every sector should voice its concerns if our goal is to depoliticize the issue and make it a national interest issue. We must promote a consensus.

[Miller] Your party had charged that the PRD was obstructing and stalling the debate.

[Cochez] I think two basic problems are involved. The first is that this bill was poorly presented by the ad hoc and assembly canal commissions, and thus, was rejected. The second is that it was not well sold by the government, because there is not only a lack of leadership in the Executive Branch but also in the Legislative Branch. This is a fact.

I think everyone has a right and, we, as legislators, must listen to all sectors in the search for a national consensus to come up with a good law. If we—instead of saying these are my proposals, what about incorporating them in Article 7 and debating them—spend two, three, or four days debating, repeating speeches, saying things that really do not lead to a consensus, we would, of course,

give the impression we are stalling the debate, wasting time, and delivering trite speeches. [passage omitted]

[Miller] Here are the conclusions by our distinguished special guests. Legislator Cochez, why is a law on the reverted areas necessary?

[Cochez] I feel it makes us take care of one of the two problems we will face in the next seven years or less. What to do with the reverted areas and the administration of the Canal? These are two vital problems for our country over the next seven years. Taking care of the reverted areas, something in which we have lagged behind for so long, will allow us to incorporate them into our development and face future events, such as the U.S. decision to close their bases and the end of military bases after 31 December 1999, in compliance with the treaties.

As for the Canal, we are empowering the ARI through an amendment to coordinate and plan all matters regarding the running of the Canal and its legislation. We are getting ready for the major challenge that administering the Canal will pose for all Panamanians. I repeat, because it is important to bear this in mind, we ought not espouse partisan causes on this topic. We must all try for unity with proposals based on consensus so that if the law works, that is fine and if it is flawed to try to correct it together at once based on that consensus. Let us begin to work, however. This is how we can start to incorporate an immeasurable wealth for our country into our development or else we can let these areas deteriorate further, as we have done thus far.

[Miller] Mr. Bishop?

[Bishop] I must say that things that begin badly end badly. The disastrous ARI law got off to a bad start, and we already are seeing signs it will come to a bad end. We are proposing the immediate suspension of the debates on the ARI and that the Executive call a referendum where the people of Panama will make a decision on this law or the areas that will revert or have already reverted to our country. The final responsibility lies with the Panamanian people, who are the heirs of this whole area. To conclude, Local 907 is asking the Executive that if this agreement [not further specified]is not reached, all the defense site employees, who have been paying their retirement quotas to the Social Security Fund and have met the minimum 15-year requirement, should be the beneficiaries of a special retirement plan, just as the U.S. Government is already implementing a plan that benefits thousands of Panamanian workers who began to work before the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

[Miller] Legislator Herrera.

[Herrera] I want to make it clear the law does not mention the administration of the Canal. The law establishes that the administration of the Canal will be the subject of another law. This law is exclusively meant for the sale, allocation, and leasing of the reverted areas. That must be made clear on this program. Second, our role will be to continue pointing out and making all the proposals that the political parties committee rejected in the full assembly. We think we must draft a law. We must have an ARI. That law must be consulted, however. That is our stance. We will continue to do that.

The method employed to debate the bill by segments is terrible. The segment we began to discuss contains 15 articles. It refers to the entire administrative structure, the nine board members, what are they going to do, what restrictions and functions they have. Not restrictions, I am sorry, since all the law spells out is their functions; the last thing those nine board members have is any restriction. The bill hands just about everything over to them on a silver platter. I hope the president vetoes it. Otherwise, the ARI board members will soon have sold everything they must sell in the reverted areas before the General Plan enters into force.

[Miller] Legislator Saenz, the three blocs that make up the majority concur that the law on the reverted areas is needed. How do we seek consensus?

[Saenz] The only way to seek consensus would be for the PRD members to join the other blocs so we can give the country an effective solution by creating an authority, as an autonomous entity, that can administer and plan the most adequate use of those properties that belong to the country. The Canal route, dear friends, is filled with many tears and frustrations, but it is also filled with many hopes. That route can make us a very wealthy and happy people or a very poor and unhappy people. Politicians, we, would be irresponsible if after 14 years of doing nothing, and having the opportunity now to give the country a legal instrument to develop those areas, we fail to do it.

The law might not be perfect—it is impossible to find perfection in human work—but this law can be corrected along the way. We only have seven years before the year 2000 and we must show the world that we are a people and a nation. We must show that blood was shed since the 19th century so that Panamanians could benefit from the Canal. The time has come for Panamanians to run it with our own intelligence, passion, love, tears, but also with our own hopes.

The people cannot continue with the complex that we are unable to run our lives and our patrimony. We have a great opportunity to show the world and ourselves that we are capable. We are capable. Since the 19th century Panamanians have been fighting to make the route of the Canal and the railroad the great source of wealth, the great hope and opportunity to pull this nation out of the misery and idleness found in the reverted areas.

[Miller] For the past 15 years, the reverted areas have remained detached from national development. Now, more so than a potential, they are symbols of neglect and indifference. A law on the reverted areas is urgently needed; otherwise, we will be plunging current reverted areas in the worst kind of abandonment and subjecting future reverted properties to a similar fate.

The ARI, based on the bill that was presented, is a real alternative in view of a lack of a coherent policy to establish what to do with the reverted property.

The legislators have a historic opportunity with this ARI bill. They either allow the nation to advance or the next legislative elections and the generations to come will prove that those who were unable to assume their historical responsibility when they had to will pay for their actions.

Russian Commerce Official Discusses Economic Ties

PA1902024993 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Feb 93 p 13a

[Report on interview with Nikolay U. Drozdov, Russian deputy minister of commerce, by Antonia Edith Gutierrez, in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] Nikolay U. Drozdov, Russian deputy minister of commerce [title as published], in charge of the Russian Foreign Trade and Economy Department, stated he will encourage Russian businessmen to invest in Panama.

In an interview with LA PRENSA, translated by Rodolfo de la Guardia, Deputy Minister Drozdov, head of the Russian Federation Government delegation interested in establishing contacts with the government and Latin American private firms, answered questions related to his mission and expressed his country's interest in maintaining an economic presence in Panama.

During his visit, Drozdov met with Legislative Assembly President Lucas Zarak, Commerce and Industries Minister Roberto Alfaro, Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Mulino, Chamber of Commerce President Ricardo Duran, and presidential advisers Hernan Delgado and Menalco Solis.

Drozdov said that he was "impressed" with his contacts and the talks held in Panama. He added that, upon his return, he will report the many advantages the Isthmus offers to Russian businessmen and will encourage them to come here.

[Gutierrez] What are the investment plans of the Russian Federation in Latin America?

[Drozdov] Russia has to start new economic relations with Latin America because the government of the former Soviet Union only had commercial relations with nearby countries. Now, with the changes brought about by the democratic, commercial, and economic opening in the country, Russia is looking to other parts of the world to explore possibilities and to strengthen existing diplomatic and economic ties. We view Latin America favorably and regard Panama as the entrance to the region.

[Gutierrez] What investment possibilities have you seen in Panama?

[Drozdov] There are many. Not only do we want to establish traditional commercial relations (buy and sell) with Panama but we also want to have a more accessible presence in the country. We have gradually started to look for possibilities, to learn from the Panamanians' experience in international commerce, and even to request advise.

We have already made the first step. As you know, Aeroflot airlines will start operations shortly and its offices are located in Avenida Justo Arosemena, Panama City. We follow a course: First, we establish trade relations and then we establish more formal diplomatic relations.

We have to settle in Panama to be able to start a massive investment operation. We still have not done this because we do not have a consulate or an embassy in the country; there are no official relations between Panama and Russia.

We have also already made a firm step in this direction. We will send a general consul to establish relations with Panama in two or three months. At that time, we expect the Panamanian Government to reciprocate our action by sending a general consul to Moscow.

[Gutierrez] What is the specific purpose of your visit?

[Drozdov] I represent a government commercial institution and, since business cannot wait until the governments decide to establish diplomatic relations, we are looking for commercial contacts.

Recently, Russian-Panamanian Trade House Incorporated was established in Panama. The firm is being used to facilitate commercial contacts between Panamanians and Russians. We have already signed contracts to exhibit and sell Russian products in Panama.

Our trade relations are still not very significant. I suggest we change this situation. Our commercial relations with Panama are currently limited to vehicles and vodka and we purchase small quantities of several fruits and coffee from Panama.

I hope that with the increase of commercial activities between our countries, Russian-Panamanian Trade House Incorporated affiliates will start to operate in the area and offer products such as aircraft, helicopters, and industrial and agriculture machinery.

The firm, managed by Alexei B. Niconov, is a commercial exchange house to sell and buy all types of products. It currently represents the interests of the Russian Government commercial office.

[Gutierrez] Are there commercial agreements between Panama and Russia?

[Drozdov] There are no commercial agreements and it is a situation that troubles businessmen in both countries. It is a concern I share.

The only treaties that exist were signed by the former Soviet Union, but these agreements are no longer valid.

The task that concerns both governments is the establishment of a legal basis that will ensure safety and guarantees to all businessmen.

The first step is to develop treaties and commercial exchange agreements, as well as to establish legal protection between both governments that will benefit investors. The important point is, however, that it must be an arrangement that will attract investors and make them feel at ease.

In addition, we must also approve an agreement related to tax payments by businessmen and investors from both countries, which is indispensable to establishing commercial exchange and investment relations between civilized nations.

[Gutierrez] Does this mean Panama will be the starting point for Russian investments in Latin America, or have you already established contacts with other countries?

[Drozdov] Most naturally, Russia already has commercial relations with other Latin American countries such as Brazil, Peru, Argentina and others, and we continue to maintain these relations. We have discovered, however, that Panama is a strategic point for Latin American trade and it is included as part of our political map. Nowadays, Panama is viewed by Russian businessmen and economists, as well as other people involved in business activities, as a very important place for the development of trade in Latin America.

[Gutierrez] In your opinion, what advantages does Panama offer?

[Drozdov] An excellent geographic position; an infrastructure that is already in use; the experience and training of Panamanian businessmen; and the banking system, as well as friendly people.

The banking system and other aspects unquestionably make Panama an ideal place to open the doors to Russian trade, which is why we have been in contact with Felipe Clement, Panamanian consul in New York, who has been in charge of establishing relations. There is also Daniel Leev, a U.S. investor who is a partner in Russian-Panamanian Trade House Incorporated; Alexei B. Niconov, an executive of Russian-Panamanian Trade House Incorporated; and Rodolfo De La Guardia, a manager in Panama of Russian-Panamanian Trade House Incorporated; as well as Ocean Reef Transport Limited.

[Gutierrez] Does Russia expect to compete with the United States in the Latin American market?

[Drozdov] Not only does Russia expect to compete, but we expect to win this competition, but we must be realists. There is enough market and space for both countries to sell their respective products in a peaceful manner. Moreover, there are other countries determined to establish trade relations with Russia. There is sufficient space for Panamanian businessmen to introduce their products to the Russian Federation.

[Gutierrez] How has the Russian citizen regarded the opening of the free market?

[Drozdov] The average citizen views this opening with expectation. To be honest, the situation is very difficult in Russia. The people are convinced that the government will be successful in implementing economic reforms and that shortly they will be at par with other countries in international trade. Evidence of this is that the Russian market is very large, having a population that surpasses 150 million inhabitants. The country is so vast, so large, that it takes nine hours of continuous flight by jet to cross from east to west.

Russia has significant mineral resources and all the basic ingredients to be a successful economy. All we have to do is to start working hard. We expect the experience and know-how of our Panamanian business counterparts will help us compete in this complicated business world.

[Gutierrez] How many state enterprises have been privatized in Russia?

[Drozdov] At this time more than 50,000 private enterprises have registered and authorized to trade with foreign markets. Some of these companies are owned by the state and some have started from scratch as private enterprises. President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree ordering that the state privatization process should be carried out rapidly. The decree also orders the privatization of all small businesses such as barber shops, travel agencies, and so forth.

Simultaneously, we are preparing to privatize the large state enterprises. We hope the privatization campaign will conclude in a 10-month period or sometime at the end of the year.

It is very difficult to privatize large enterprises, such as the Kamaz automobile factory. These are factories that have no counterpart anywhere else in the world. We have even requested assistance and advice from Western businessmen and economists on how to privatize those monsters. We have only received replies telling us that they do not know how to do it, that they do not have the experience, and that these companies are really too big, too monstrous.

Nevertheless, there is a decision to continue our privatization campaign. Regarding this, there is the question if foreign capital will be allowed to enter Russia to participate in this privatization process. The answer is yes.

If I were a foreign investor, I would be jumping at the opportunity to invest my money in Russia, as there are very important economic factors that favor the foreign investor, such as the exchange from dollars to rubles.

Report Investigates Cuban Drug Operations

PA1502153093 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 Feb 93 p 3A

[Report by Tomas A. Cabal]

[Excerpts] Investigations carried out by myself and Juan Carlos Galesio, an Argentine journalist, have revealed that the communist government of Fidel Castro has renewed its protection and support for Colombian drug cartels.

The center of this network is in Havana, under the direction of Robert Vesco—a U.S. fugitive—and Manuel Pineiros, alias Barbarroja, former chief of Cuba's counterintelligence services. This has been confirmed by a former agent of Cuba's Intelligence General Directorate [DGI], who is in Panama as a refugee, and by U.S. intelligence sources.

According to the source—a lieutenant colonel who directed intelligence operations in Spain—Castro's government, in a desperate attempt to secure foreign currency exchange, has reactivated the ties that the Cuban Interior Ministry established with Colombian drug lords in 1980, connections that had, as Colombian drug trafficker Carlos Lehder said during the trial in Miami for Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the approval of Cuban Defense Minister Raul Castro. [passage omitted]

Investigations in Panama have confirmed that the Cuban Government is still using the same tactic of appointing DGI military personnel or Cuban citizens who have the status of "refugees" as businessmen who represent Cuban enterprises. These enterprises are later used to get around the U.S. economic blockade and to secure contacts outside Cuba for the drug-trafficking and money-laundering business.

According to Galesio Navarro and U.S. intelligence sources consulted by EL PANAMA AMERICA, the staff that supervises the traffic of narcotics through the Caribbean island includes not only Vesco and Barbarroja but also Merchant Fleet Minister [as published] Admiral Aldo Santamaria as well as Osmani Cienfuegos Gorrialan, who has been appointed by the PCC Central Committee to promote trade with Cuba.

In Panama, the Cuban Government maintains a covert intelligence structure behind the commercial facade that operates from the Cuban Embassy as well as from the offices it maintains in the Colon Free Zone (the largest free zone on the American continent), sources consulted by this newspaper have reported.

These sources said that the operations are being directed by the so-called Panama Group, which was created by the Havana regime to handle the Cuban companies that operate in Panama.

According to documents in our possession, these enterprises include CIMEX S.A., Trover S.A., Motores Marinos de Panama S.A. (an enterprise dedicated to the sale of boats produced in Cuban shipyards) and the Lone Star Cattle Company (which the registered owner in Panama is Dictator Fidel Castro Ruz).

This group, according to our sources, is composed of the following Cuban Interior Ministry officials: Major Berto Francisco Perez Orama, Antonio Martinez, who is a counterintelligence official and has used two Cuban passports: passport No. 47362, which he used on 24 September at a meeting of shareholders of the Lone Star Cattle Company, and passport No. 03061, which he used 15 days later at a meeting of shareholders of Trover S.A. According to public documents, that meeting was called to accept the resignation of one of the enterprise's directors, Enrique Veloso.

Other members of this special group include Lieutenant Colonel Dario Ortega Pena, with Panamanian identification card No. 8-43958, who appears listed in several companies created by Panamanian law firms; Arnaldo Tosco Garcia, alias Colonel Fernando Cuchillo; Captain Sergio Martinez; Lieutenant Colonel Orlando Perez; Pedro Cesar Carballo; Rafael Llamas; Iraida Gomez de Reyes; Cosme Gonzalez Carone; and Jorge Puente Blanco.

According to the U.S. Secret Service, Puente Blanco is an operational agent of the America Department, which is now at the service of the drug cartels for special operations. According to the North Americans, this man has dual Cuban-Panamanian citizenship, which allows him to travel easily.

Puente Blanco also served as a military instructor for the Sandinists during the Nicaragua civil war. A grenade damaged his face and a hand. In Cuba, he lives at First Street and Malecon Boulevard, Vedado Neighborhood, with the former wife of former Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca. He travels with Panamanian Passport No. 8-70-120 and was recently seen in Panama making bank transactions.

Another key member of the Panama Group is Lieutenant Colonel Jose Pena Torres, who has been in Panama for seven years as a representative of CIMEX and of the National Bank of Cuba.

In addition to the list of companies which, according to the information we have, combines commercial activities with money-laundering and drug-trafficking businesses, we have to add the Cuban enterprise Acuario Promotions S.A., which operates in the Colon Free Zone, next to the offices of the enterprise Teragua; and in Panama City in the Condominio Via Argentina building, on the fourth floor, Apartment A. Orestes Martinez manages this enterprise. Martinez is a counterintelligence officer of the Cuban Interior Ministry.

This company rented a Greek-registered ship with a Cuban crew sailing under the name of Cristina Mery. The ship sails at the service of Cubalse, the company that owns Acuario. According to Colon Free Zone sources, it

makes two trips per month between Panama and Havana carrying a total of 42 containers. Its shipping agent in the port of Cristobal (Caribbean side) is Panama Service, Inc. and in Cuba they are represented by Greek ship owner Kisos, whose telephone number in Havana is 33-1542.

Our sources told us that all of these "trade" operations have the support of Cuban diplomatic personnel stationed in Panama, such as Charge d'Affaires Arnaldo Molina and Consul General Robert (Bob) Infante Pupu (member of the counterintelligence section, America Directorate of the Cuban Foreign Ministry).

Our sources said that the Cuban Government is laundering drug money through Panama, Spain, Venezuela, Argentina, and the United States, utilizing the services of the Banco Fiduciario Internacional, a Cuban financial institution used to cover up all types of fraudulent transactions.

This bank is represented outside of Cuba by Banco Bilbao Vizcaya (Spanish bank linked by the authorities to drug trafficking activities conducted by the Galician drug cartels). Our efforts to obtain the Banco Bilbao Vizcaya's general manager's statements on the subject were unproductive. According to his secretary, who said she was speaking on behalf of General Manager Paulino Garcia, "it is not the bank's custom to discuss their clients' matters with the media."

Mr. Garcia, president of the Panama Banking Association, has severely criticized U.S. officials and the media, who have pointed out the increase in money-laundering activities through the Panama banking center. According to U.S. experts, money-laundering activities are now reaching the levels that prevailed during the Noriega dictatorship.

According to reliable sources, the Cuban Government is taking advantage of the intense commercial activity at the Colon Free Zone ($9 billion in 1992) to hide and launder drug money, which is the product of operations conducted by Colombian mafia groups through Cuban airspace and territorial waters with the open cooperation of the Cuban Interior Ministry and special units from the Cuban Navy and Air Force.

To get rid of the dirty money generated by the protection of drug-trafficking activities through the "Pearl of the Antilles," the Cuban Government is taking advantage of Panamanian businessmen who run offices in Cuba. This money, estimated at $100 million per year, is deposited in Panamanian banks to purchase merchandise needed by the Castro regime, thereby completing the laundering process, our sources said.

As government officials told the media in Panama, "the lack of resources of the security forces prevents them from appropriately fighting drug-trafficking and money-laundering activities, which causes concern for U.S. authorities."

This situation, added to the accusations of corruption against President Guillermo Endara's government by the U.S. media, could complicate even more the already complex diplomatic relations with the powerful northern neighbor, a neighbor who justified Operation Just Cause by capturing narcodictator Noriega and limiting the flow of drugs and money-laundering activities through our country.

Brazil

Senate Approves Fiscal Adjustment Project

PY1902011393 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] In a first round of voting the Senate has approved the government fiscal adjustment project. The project was approved without any amendments by a vote of 66 to 8, that is, the government obtained 17 more votes than were needed.

The 40 amendments proposed for the project were rejected by the sponsor of the project, Senator Jose Fogaca. Some senators wanted the amendments to be fully studied. Some of these amendments are still being discussed. But the general mood was that the text approved in the Chamber of Deputies had to be fully maintained.

Civil Household Chief Henrique Hargreaves, who came to Congress to follow the voting, said that the result was no surprise at all. He feels that in the second round of voting the senators will confirm their votes. He added that the government is willing to negotiate only procedures for its implementation.

Ceiling Set for State Enterprise Directors

PY1802225693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Feb 93 Economy and Business Section p 1

[Article by Diana Fernandes]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—As of today the presidents and directors of state-run enterprises will have seven days to reduce their salaries to a level that does not exceed that received by a minister, which as of January amounted to 78 million cruceiros.

This has been established through a decree signed yesterday by President Itamar Franco. The president wants to put an end to salary distortions within state-run enterprises, reducing benefits such as overtime payments, bonuses, and allowances. The Central Bank, for example, has created life salary bonuses for some employees.

The decree sets forth that new plans should be submitted to the Federal Administration Secretariat (SAF) within 90 days, specifying salaries, bonuses, and benefits for all employees of state-run enterprises.

"The decree must be complied with," Franco said, as soon as it was read by presidential Secretary General Mauro Durante. Franco, who listened to Durante through the palace's closed circuit, was irritated because no explanations were given about the decree. He immediately instructed another adviser to provide further explanations: "Each enterprise will choose a formula for adjusting salaries, making the reductions that it deems necessary." [passage omitted]

Franco Displeased Over New Currency Bill

PY1902011893 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report by Antonio Carlos Silva]

[Text] President Itamar Franco has expressed his annoyance over the promulgation of a bill to reduce the number of zeros in the cruzeiro and create a new currency, the new cruzeiro.

According to Francisco Baker, presidential spokesman at Planalto Palace, President Franco was unpleasantly surprised by this promulgation. According to Baker, the president had not received anything on the matter before the publication of the bill, and as soon as he receives the proposal he will submit it to the Presidency Legal Department for study.

Baker added that the president has no intentions of resolving the matter within the next few days, nor does he like the idea of having the new cruzeiro back. He still has doubts about whether or not to adopt this name for the Brazilian currency.

The presidential spokesman took this opportunity to report that during the days of Carnival no economic package will be issued.

'Flexibility' by U.S. Demanded in Negotiations

PY1902131693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1834 GMT 17 Feb 93

[Text] Brasilia, 17 Feb (EFE)—The Brazilian Government today demanded more "flexibility" and "a clear political commitment" from the United States and other consumer countries in the current negotiations for the signing of the International Coffee Agreement, AIC.

The Brazilian Foreign Ministry today issued a press communique supporting the joint declaration on the negotiations issued in Caracas on 12 February by the president of the Group of Three (Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela) and by the Central American presidents.

The Foreign Ministry stated: "The Brazilian Government fully agrees with all the concerns expressed during the meeting held in Caracas by the presidents," who regretted the "lack of flexibility" by the consumer nations to reach an agreement on the coffee price.

It added that Brazil seeks to conclude a balanced AIC that will properly reflect the legitimate aspirations of producers as an essential step to stabilizing the world coffee economy and improving the economic situation of Latin American producers.

Brazil, the world's leading coffee producer, considers that the agreement reached in London by producer and consumer countries will contribute to recovering the region's economies and reversing the tendency of coffee prices to drop in international markets.

Chile

Government 'Optimistic' Over Clinton Measures

PY1802175993 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Relay from the Finance Ministry by Andrea Miguel]

[Text] The economic program implemented by the United States will not affect free trade negotiations with Chile according to acting Finance Minister Jorge Rodriguez. Rodriguez added that a free trade agreement might materialize this year.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] We are very optimistic, from the free trade viewpoint, over the package of measures announced by President Bill Clinton. We feared the United States would chose a more closed policy in the trade field in an attempt to protect sectors of its industry. However, it is clear now that President Clinton has decided to maintain an open door trade policy to promote the LAFTA [Latin American Free Trade Agreement] and to fulfill his promise to continue negotiations for a free trade agreement with Chile. From this viewpoint we may rest assured. We will, undoubtedly, benefit from the recovery of the U.S. economy because the United States will increase its exports to Chile and, as it recovers, increase its imports from Chile. [end recording]

Rodriguez also termed as positive the economic program announced by Bill Clinton before the U.S. Congress because it is designed to reduce the U.S. fiscal deficit and help the most neglected sectors.

Rodriguez explained that 500,000 new job opportunities will be created in the United States, expenditures will be cut back, and new investments will be made. Therefore, he said, in a few years the United States will pull out of the very serious crisis it is experiencing now which is reflected in its $400 billion fiscal deficit.

Rodriguez ended by stating that the Chilean economy is no longer affected by U.S. problems because it has diversified the markets to which it exports it goods. Nevertheless, a sound U.S. economy benefits Chile.

First Supreme Court Hearing in Letelier Case

PY1902001593 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report by Lidia Fuentes from the Supreme Court of Justice]

[Excerpt] During the first court hearing in the Letelier case, held at the Supreme Court today, the key issues that surfaced concerned the airplane tickets to the United States granted to agent Michael Townley in September 1976 and the relationship between Dina [National Intelligence Directorate] and the Exprinter Tourist Agency.

According to the defense, it has been established that Dina paid the air fares for [name indistinct], the cover name used by Michael Townley, to New York in 1976. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Police Authorities Identify Car Bomb Terrorists

PA1802045093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report by Miriam Ortiz]

[Text] The Prosecutor's Office and the Dijin [Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate] and Sijin [Municipal Judicial and Investigative Police] intelligence units in Santa Fe de Bogota have now fully identified three persons as the alleged perpetrators of the 15 February dynamite attacks in that city. They are Guillermo Diaz, alias Memo or Bolis; William Cardenas Calle, alias Lenguas; and a woman nicknamed La Zarca.

Adelina Meza Santamaria, the woman who was slightly injured and referred to by certain media as the person responsible for the explosion on 26th Street, was arrested by Dijin as a suspect. On the afternoon of 17 February, after being discharged from the hospital, she gave her first deposition at the Prosecutor's Office. Her appearance matches the description given by various witnesses who survived the terrorist acts. Her relatives in Medellin said that Adelaida [name as heard] is a watch saleswoman and belongs to a wealthy family.

Seven other suspects are under Sijin detention. Meanwhile, state security organizations continue their search for Memo, Lenguas, and La Zarca.

Army Commander Says Escobar Remains in Colombia

PA1902031893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2111 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 18 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Army Commander General Hernan Jose Guzman asserted in Santa Fe de Bogota on 18 February that fugitive drug trafficker Pablo Escobar is still in Colombian territory, thus denying reports that the drug lord is in Panama or Venezuela.

"Escobar is in Medellin," Gen. Guzman told reporters, stressing that the so-called "Search Block" formed by 6,000 men in charge of establishing the fugitive's whereabouts "has been steadfast in its operation."

Over the past few days, reports from abroad indicated the Medellin Cartel chief had fled to Panama or Venezuela where special forces, including the U.S. Southern command, are searching for him.

"The pressure exerted by the Search Block makes it impossible for Escobar to leave the Medellin area," the officer said.

Gen. Guzman added that the surrender of one of Escobar's trusted men, drug trafficker Carlos Alzate Urquijo, on 17 February was prompted by the effectiveness of the special forces operation against the members of the drug cartel.

The surrender of Alzate Urquijo, known as "Arete," according to Guzman, "allows us to close in on Escobar."

Escobar escaped from the Envigado jail on the outskirts of Medellin on 22 July 1992 and on various occasions has expressed his willingness to negotiate his surrender, but the government has rejected the conditions imposed by the drug lord.

Guerrilla Leader Bernardino Captured in Boyaca

PA1902025493 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 15 Feb 93 p 12-A

[Text] On 14 February the authorities captured guerrilla leader Bernardino Forero Martinez, who has been charged with the murders of Arauca Bishop Monscignor Augusto Monsalve Jaramillo and several government employees, including a mayor.

Bernardino was arrested near Bonza Municipality in Boyaca Department. He is said to be one of the chiefs of the Army of National Liberation Domingo Lain Front.

Meneses Captured in Santander

PA1802214893 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report by Pablo Vasquez]

[Text] The leadership of the National Liberation Army [ELN] guerrilla group continues to crumble. Luis Jose Guillermo Meneses Reyes, alias Jeronimo, was captured in Santander on 18 February. Meneses has been the commander of the ELN Captain Parmenio Front for the past eight years.

Members of the 5th Brigade and the Anti-Extortion and Kidnapping Unit group captured Meneses. The 5th Brigade recently had the opportunity to show us a video in which Meneses' crimes were presented, as well as the weapons that were confiscated from the leader of the Captain Parmenio Front.

The Captain Parmenio Front operates in San Vicente de Chucuri and El Carmen. There are people in that area who recognize him.

The most important thing to note is that Meneses stated his desire to cooperate with the 5th Brigade and the Army in capturing more guerrilla leaders in the San Vicente de Chucuri and El Carmen area.

Fortich Captured in Cartagena

PA1902042393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The Navy dealt another blow to the ELN [Army of National Liberation] in Cartegena by capturing Fernan Fortich Gonzalez, commander of that subversive organization's northern battle front.

The guerrilla, also known as Orlando, headed eight ELN fronts on the Atlantic coast.

Fortich Gonzalez was denounced by a person who will receive 100 million pesos in reward.

Survey Conducted on Presidential Elections

PA1802235693 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 93

[All figures as heard]

[Excerpts] We have the results of the electoral survey by CROMOS magazine and Caracol network. We began the surveys in November and will continue to do so every two months to assess the opinion and preference of Colombians for the next presidential elections. From 6 to 9 January, 1,191 persons were surveyed. The quality, not the size, of the survey is what matters most. In the United States, a country four times as big as ours, 1,100, 1,200, or 1,500 persons are canvassed. The representativeness of those polled is what matters. In this case, 576 people were surveyed in Santa Fe de Bogota; 206, in Medellin; 199 in Cali; 130 in Barranquilla; and 80 in Bucaramanga.

The political makeup of the sample follows: 214 were Conservatives, 115 belonged to the 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance, 32 belonged to the New Democratic Force, 385 belonged to the Liberal Party, 37 belonged to the National Salvation Movement, 21 said they belonged to parties other than those mentioned, and 387 said they did not belong to any party.

The first question posed by the National Consultation Center was as follows: What Conservative Party candidate for president do you prefer? The answers were: 2.3 percent for Rodrigo Marin Bernal; 13 percent for Juan Gomez Martinez, 2.2 percent for Gabriel Melo Guevara; 38.01 percent for Andres Pastrana Arango; 2.7 percent for Carlos Holguin; 7.1 percent for Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo; 3.1 percent for Roberto Gerlein Echeverrias; 2.7 percent for Juan Diego Jaramillo; and 26.6 percent for none of the above. [passage omitted]

The choices for presidental candidate in the Liberal Party were as follows: 3.4 percent for David Turbay Turbay; 13.7 percent for Carlos Lemos Simmonds; 18.9 percent for Humberto de la Calle Lombana; 21.2 percent for Ernesto Samper Pizano; 9.4 percent for Enrique Parejo Gonzalez; 1.6 percent for Luis Fernando Jarmillo; 3.4 percent for [name indistinct]; 1.6 percent for Rodolfo Gonzalez Garcia; and 24.9 percent for none of the above. [passage omitted]

We also asked the following question: If the presidential elections were held today, and the candidates were Andres Pastrana, Antonio Navarro, and Ernesto Samper, who would you vote for? The answers were: 37.8 percent for Andres Pastran; 16 percent for Antonio Navarro; 25.7 percent for Ernesto Samper; and 18.7 percent for none of the above. [passage omitted]

We asked: If the presidential elections were held today, who would you vote for? Here are the answers: 21.2 percent for Ernesto Samper Pizano; 13.8 percent for Antonio Navarro; 31.3 percent for Andres Pastrana Arango; 9.6 percent for Carlos Lemos Simmonds; 9.4 percent for Enrique Parejo; and 13.1 percent for none of the above. [passage omitted]

If the candidates in a runoff were Antonio Navarro and Ernesto Samper, who would you vote for? The answers were: 27.1 percent for Antonio Navarro; 42.4 percent for Ernesto Samper; and 27.6 percent for none of the above. We also asked: If the runoff elections were held today, who would you vote for of the following: Andres Pastrana Arango, Antonio Navarro, or none of the above? Here are the results: 51.6 percent for Andres Pastrana; 22.8 percent for Antonio Navarro; and 23.9 percent for none of the above.

Who would you vote for if Andres Pastrana and Ernesto Samper were the candidates in a runoff? Here is the answer: 45.1 percent for Andres Pastrana and 30.9 percent for Enresto Samper Pizano. [passage omitted]

The National Consultation Center, Caracol, and CROMOS asked: How do you prefer to nominate presidential candidates? The answer: 72.3 percent said by consulting the people; 21.3 percent said through party conventions; and 6.4 percent did not know or did not answer. Asked if they planned to vote, the respondants answered: 41.6 intended to vote; and 43.7 percent were undecided, did not know, or did not answer. In addition, 14.8 percent said they want nothing to do with the elections or voting.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Discusses Aid for Haiti

PY1802222393 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 18 Feb 93 pp 2-3

[Text] Although he said he still had to discuss the issue with President Andres Rodriguez, Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken asserted that Paraguay, despite being a small country with limited resources in comparison with other more wealthy Latin American countries, should support the OAS proposal to assist in the reconstruction and the restoration of democracy in Haiti.

Frutos Vaesken said in this regard that the issue had been discussed during a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman. He added that in principle, the establishment of a kind of Peace Corps is among the various alternatives under discussion for overcoming the Haitian crisis. This corps would be comprised of civilians specializing in different socieconomic areas.

It is within this context that the foreign minister said Paraguay might be part of a Latin American cooperation program.

Colorados Discuss Possible Consensus Tickets

PY1802225193 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 18 Feb 93 pp 2-3

[Text] Yesterday leaders from the different Colorado Party factions conducted intense negotiations to try to achieve a consensus for the 9 May general elections. Among the many party tickets that were discussed was that of Luis Maria Argana and Blas N. Riquelme running as president and vice president, respectively.

Asked about this, ANR [National Republican Association—Colorado Party] President Blas N. Riquelme reasserted that he had withdrawn from the senatorial race, and that he is not seeking any elective post. When asked about what he would do if he were chosen as a consensus candidate, Riquelme declined to make any comments.

Former presidential hopeful Gustavo Diaz de Vivar, who yesterday met with Riquelme twice, said he was in favor of achieving a consensus ticket for overcoming the ANR crisis. Diaz de Vivar and high-ranking leaders of his movement submitted to Riquelme a folder containing proposals for solving the internal party crisis. Diaz de Vivar, who is also the president of the Senate, denied that any specific names for an eventual ticket were ever discussed.

Argana movement leaders who were consulted yesterday confirmed that Luis Maria Argana and Riquelme are holding negotiations to try to achieve a solution to the crisis.

They added that they are holding direct negotiations without any mediators, and that they may achieve some results by 21 February. One of the movement's leaders said that an interesting and peaceful solution to the problem would be for Argana to run as president and a representative from the other ticket to be his running mate.

If this ticket were to materialize, Juan Bautista Ybanez, Argana's current running mate, would become the president of the ANR Executive Board. Other rumors, however, indicated that Ybanez would be offered a cabinet post in the next administration.

Ybanez himself has said on several occasions that he is willing to resign if it would help resolve the current crisis affecting the Colorado Party, which jeopardizes the party's participation in the May general elections.

Congress Session To Discuss Electoral System

PY1802213493 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 1510 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report by unidentified journalist from Congress]

[Text] An executive branch decree summoning the two chambers of Congress to hold special sessions has already been received by Congress. The announcement has finally been made at the Congress building. The executive branch has finally submitted to Congress a legal contribution toward overcoming the National Republican Association, Colorado Party, crisis, and allowing them to choose official candidates for the 9 May general elections.

Interior Minister Dr. Hugo Estigarribia arrived at the Congress building at 1130 sharp. A meeting was held at the office of Senate President Gustavo Diaz de Vivar. Also present were Chamber of Deputies President Dr. Jose Antonio Moreno Rufinelli; Dr. Federico Zayas, the standing committee chairman; and members of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate.

Dr. Hugo Estigarribia delivered to Congressional authorities a decree calling a special session of Congress to study the bill on the lemas electoral system [Uruguayan electoral system which allows the contending factions within one party to put up separate candidates in the general elections].

Plan To Change Electoral System Condemned

PY1902015393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Feb 93 p 12

[Editorial: "The Lemas Electoral System is a Reprehensible Course of Action"]

[Text] A new attempt to adopt the lemas electoral system has tarnished to an even greater extent the national political environment. The idea has emerged from certain circles in the Colorado Party linked to one of the factions currently striving for the main candidacies at stake in the forthcoming national elections.

The proposal reportedly consists in approving a new law which will make it possible for all candidates who participated in the Colorado Party internal elections to run separately in the national elections, while their vote totals would be automatically added to whoever obtains the majority of votes in the elections. The Colorado Party voter will thus be forced to vote for the winner, even if this was not the candidate he favored. It is easy to see the intrinsic perversity of this system, which violates the personal freedom to elect and represents a trick which is by no means democratic. Through this mechanism a party faction, although it be comparatively small, could legitimately attain the power of government.

Such a system surely merits severe legal objections in light of the text of Article 230 of the national Constitution, but much more than its legal aspects, what is worrying is its blatant lack of ethicality as well as the political consequences it could possibly cause in this process of transition, which has not yet reached its most consolidated or firm stage.

What is morally more objectionable is undoubtedly the attempt to submit this system to approval in Congress, placing it at the service of a given party's interests. It is difficult to imagine anything with less political ethicality and less democratic spirit, but this is happening. At the same time, we must consider its purely political aspect. That is, the fact that such a system would only benefit one faction, and would place obstacles on the path of the other candidates, both in the internal and in the national elections.

Indeed, opposition parties and movements will no longer be able to use this system of elections for their own benefit—supposing that one could benefit—because they have already held their internal elections under different rules, and now have their lists of candidates ready to be registered. Moreover, the text prepared by those responsible for this project reportedly does not include the possibility that opposition parties and movements could participate in the national elections by using the same principle of a double vote which this electoral system implies. In this manner, if the lemas electoral system can provide some practical advantage, it would be exclusively for the benefit of that faction of the Colorado Party which will obtain the greatest number of votes. In other words—we must say it again—the enactment of a national law is being proposed for the sole purpose of giving advantage to one movement which is running for power.

We hope that the majority of senators and deputies, elected by the people to defend the highest interests of the nation and the fundamental principles of democracy and of the state of law, will not pass over these essential principles only to maintain a sector of their party in political power. But if this majority decides to hastily change the electoral law simply to solve an internal conflict which jeopardizes its electoral chances, and in this manner subordinate the country's interests to their own benefit, then the validity of the system we are advocating—democracy—as it is being practiced, will have to be thoroughly reviewed.

And this revision could perhaps emerge immediately through a drastic position taken by the opposition, through their refusing to participate in the next elections against a party whose leaders show that they are willing to do anything, even that which is unethical, to retain political power.

Febrerista Revolutionary Party Faces Crisis

PY1802223693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Feb 93 p 8

[Text] The Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF] is facing its worst institutional crisis, and a fairly delicate situation, in that it is running the risk of not participating in the 9 May general elections unless it overcomes a legal

problem before 9 March, which is the deadline for registration of candidates for electoral posts at the Central Electoral Board.

The current crisis was prompted by the March 1990 convention, when the internal central electoral board was changed. This change was described as illegal by the Rafael Franco Multisector [Multisectorial Rafael Franco], a movement currently proscribed from the PRF. This situation prompted a court action which ended with a Supreme Court ruling favorable to the National Executive Committee.

Euclides Acevedo was elected party president on 22 April 1990, but was immediately challenged by the Rafael Franco Multisector. Internal elections were held on 27 December 1992. These elections were won by the Unity and Modernity for Change ticket. The Rafael Franco Multisector movement resorted to the Asuncion Electoral Court, requesting that the call to these internal elections be declared null and void, a request that was favorable to them.

The Unity and Modernity for Change faction for its part has appealed this ruling before the Asuncion Electoral Court. The appeal is still pending.

Peru

Fujimori To Grant Pardons 'Selectively'

PA1802170693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has said the coupist officers will be granted pardons, though this will be done selectively. Commenting on the scandal that broke out over the charges of the alleged disappearance of gold from our reserves, he reaffirmed his confidence in Central Reserve Bank President German Suarez and demanded a prompt clarification. He also talked about other important topics.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] That possibility is still there. It will be granted selectively after the Supreme Military Justice Council concludes its investigation and relevant duties.

[Unidentified reporter] Will the pardon cover all of them, or will it be selective?

[Fujimori] The pardon will be selective.

[Reporter] Who will receive the pardon?

[Fujimori] I cannot say. We must of course take into consideration the responsibility of each of them.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Fujimori] This must be done after the trial is over. I suppose the entire military judicial process will culminate in approximately 10 or 15 days.

[Reporter] Sentences will be handed down on 18 February.

[Fujimori] That is the first phase. Then comes the....

[Reporter, interrupting] [Words indistinct] will be pardoned, or will they have to wait longer?

[Fujimori] I repeat, the selective pardon could be ready. I think we have covered a wide range of the country's problems in this first phase. Some questions may still remain in these cases. The general outline was explained clearly. Unfortunately, not everybody was able to listen to it because it was announced early in the morning. I am certain the foreign relations minister will give precise explanations on each of those points.

As for the matter of espionage, which was the most important issue reported lately by the media, one can say security in the Armed Forces, our sovereignty, is fully guaranteed.

[Reporter] How about the comptroller? Does she have your confidence?

[Fujimori] The executive submitted a proposal to the Congress to appoint the comptroller.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Fujimori] I am not staying on the sidelines on this issue, of course. I want all doubts dispelled. My opinion is there is no gold missing, because I have talked directly with Suarez, who has given me technical explanations. He assures me there is no gold missing. [end recording]

Officers in Coup Attempt Sentenced

PA1802174893 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1648 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Report by Enrique Vidal]

[Text] [Vidal] We now have the sentences handed down against the military officers involved in the 13 November foiled coup attempt. Dr. Enrique Gutierrez, General Luis Soriano Morgan's defense attorney, informed us of the sentences and reparations for damage. Good afternoon, Doctor.

[Gutierrez] Good afternoon.

[Vidal] According to the information, the harshest sentence was given to Gen. Salinas Cedo, who was sentenced to eight years in prison.

[Gutierrez] That is correct. He has been sentenced to eight years in prison and fined 500,000 sols for damage because, according to the ruling, serious economic damage has been inflicted on the state. I do not know where they get that, but that is the sentence. He will have to pay 500,000 sols, and he will be in jail until November 2000. I want to clarify that there is a chance for him to be released on parole after two-thirds of the sentence has been served.

Gen. Pastor has been sentenced to four years in prison and 10,000 sols in reparations. Victor Obando was sentenced to five years and 20,000 sols. Manuel Obando was sentenced to seven years and 50,000 sols. Gen. Soriano was sentenced to six years and 50,000 sols. Colonel Noblecilla was sentenced to seven years and 10,000 sols. Sanchez Gambini was sentenced to one year and 2,000 sols. Martinez Uribe was sentenced to four years and 8,000 sols. Granda was sentenced to 18 months and 2,500 sols. Gutierrez Tovar was sentenced to two years and ,000 sols. Montero was sentenced to 14 months and 2,000 sols. Zarate Rota was sentenced to six years and 4,000 sols. Moreno was sentenced to six years and 5,000 sols. Galdos Chacon was sentenced to three months probation. (Chavez Vegaso) was sentenced to six months probation. Luis Urquizo was sentenced to six months probation. Aguilar was sentenced to seven years and 4,000 sols. Tello was sentenced to eight months.

[Vidal] Col. Tello was sentenced to eight months?

[Gutierrez] Commander Tello was sentenced to eight months in prison and 8,000 sols in reparations. Rosado was sentenced to three months probation. Homero Jarrin was acquitted. (Bilela) was acquitted. Solano was sentenced to eight months in prison and 1,000 sols. De la Oliva was acquitted because they said he was entrapped by Gen. Salinas' statements. Caceres was sentenced to seven years and 4,000 sols. Ormeno was sentenced to seven years and 4,000 sols. Castro... [pauses] Gomez de la Torre was sentenced to three months probation for negligence. Herrera was acquitted. Carmona was sentenced to five years in prison and 4,000 sols. Malaga was sentenced to two years in prison; an abuse was committed with that officer because Capt. Malaga only obeyed his superiors' orders. He will be in jail until 18 February 1995. Marin, Pachari, (Manjari), and Gen. Palomino were acquitted.

[Vidal] As Gen. Soriano's defense attorney, will you appeal?

[Gutierrez] I have submitted an appeal already.

Colombian Subversives Attack Military Checkpoint

PY1902015993 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p A1

[Text] Two Peruvian soldiers were wounded and an undetermined number of subversives killed early on 7 February, during an attack perpetrated by members of the self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) against a Peruvian military checkpoint in Putumayo Province (Loreto).

The Armed Forces Joint Command Public Relations Office released a communique stating that the Colombian subversives entered Peruvian territory and opened fire against the soldiers assigned to the Subteniente Garcia checkpoint of the Independent Infantry Unit based in Gueppi.

The document does not report on the number of terrorists killed by Peruvian soldiers. Two Peruvian military men were wounded in the attack.

The Peruvian and Ecuadoran military commands coordinated actions and decided to evacuate Peruvian soldier Juan Torres Murayari to the Ecuadoran township of Lago Agrio. Murayari was seriously wounded in the attack. He was then transferred to Quito (Ecuador), where he was given emergency medical assistance.

The command of the Northeastern National Security Zone has ordered a joint staff commission to assess the situation in order to take the appropriate actions.

Ministry Requests Information on Espionage Case

PY1902023893 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 11 Feb 93 p A5

[Text] On 10 February the Foreign Ministry issued the following official communique related to information disclosed in Washington on a case of espionage and delivery of secret Peruvian military information to Ecuador by Frederick Hamilton, a former official of the U.S. Embassy in Peru.

Official Communique No. 7/RE

Concerning press reports on a legal action taken in the United States against a former administrative official of the U.S. Embassy in Peru, who was allegedly involved in the surrender of Peruvian military information, the Foreign Ministry herewith reports to the public that it has requested from the U.S. Government official information on the issue.

The Foreign Ministry will report on the case in due time.
[dated] Lima, 11 February 1993
[signed] Foreign Ministry Press Office

Editorial Demands Explanation

PY1902121593 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 16

[Editorial: "The Spy Who Did Not Come in From the Cold"]

[Text] People have been astonished at a confirmed case of espionage in favor of the Ecuadoran Government, in which an intelligence official of the U.S. Embassy in our country two years ago passed secret information on our Armed Forces during the border conflict between Peru and Ecuador in August 1991.

This information comes from a source known for its reliability. It is THE WASHINGTON POST, a daily that—along with THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE WALL STREET JOURNAL—ranks among the three most influential U.S. newspapers.

THE WASHINGTON POST reports that the man who is being prosecuted on espionage charges is Frederick Hamilton, an intelligence official who worked at the U.S.

Embassy in Lima when there was a border incident near the Pachacutec checkpoint, during Ecuador's umpteenth offensive against the Protocol of Rio de Janeiro, this time to mark the protocol's 50th anniversary.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST, Hamilton did not hesitate to provide "secret" and "top secret" information to the Ecuadoran Government. The information provided to the northern country led to the conclusion that Peru was not getting ready for war and that it could not begin one either.

The U.S. newspaper report says Hamilton did what he did for the purpose of avoiding an armed conflict between friendly countries. But we should undoubtedly consider this motivation as a simple detail of the story because it is part of the justification that Hamilton's lawyers used to negotiate with the prosecutor for a reduction of the punishment for this act of espionage.

The maneuvers by this former intelligence agent were uncovered and now he is being prosecuted in an Alexandria (Virginia) court, which could sentence him to five years and three months of imprisonment. Hamilton is trying to avoid this punishment by cooperating—something permitted by U.S. law—and by telling everything he knows about the affair, for which he will be sentenced in April.

From the U.S. Government's viewpoint, the matter will surely end there. Hamilton obviously "exceeded" his functions, used classified information, and passed it to a third country, thus harming the host country and also his own country.

But from the viewpoint of the Peruvian state, the issue cannot be considered a closed matter so easily. The action by Frederick Hamilton clearly amounts to espionage against our country. This justifies a request for an explanation by Torre Tagle, and excuses from the U.S. Government.

Peruvian authorities should now learn about the nature of the information leaked to Ecuador, the duration of Hamilton's assignment in Lima, and whether Ecuador paid for the information. Based on the investigation results, appropriate measures should be adopted to repair—to the extent possible—the damage caused to our country.

The Foreign Ministry, however, should seriously call the attention of the U.S. Embassy, whose personnel should be more carefully selected or should have restricted access to secret documents. Or should we say that espionage practices in favor of third countries are common in U.S. diplomatic missions?

We reiterate that the country needs to know the details of this unforgivable affair, which has cast doubts over relations that have usually had no shadows. Actually, what happened exceeded the standard behavior that diplomatic rules set for friendly countries. Had a Peruvian made the mistake of providing Iraq with secret information under the excuse of "avoiding world war" or something like that, his behavior would have been as unjustifiable as that of Hamilton.

It is surprising therefore that the U.S. Embassy has remained silent because it should have issued a communique long ago giving appropriate explanations and excuses to the Peruvian Government and people. It is also surprising to see the sluggishness of our Foreign Ministry, which is the office that should clarify this affair through the usual diplomatic channels in order to measure the magnitude and nature of the information leaked by Hamilton.

Obviously, all this should not hurt the good level of our relations with our sister republic of Ecuador, which—until evidence is found to the contrary—appears as a quite surprising beneficiary of this spy affair. We say this despite our awareness that innocence is not habitual in this type of matter. But there are no indications whatsoever of corruption in Hamilton's behavior, or that it was instigated by our neighboring country.

Consequently, after putting aside one of the parties of this three-party affair, the matter should be clarified exclusively by the Peruvian and U.S. Governments, something the opposition already requested at the Democratic Constituent Congress. Obviously, not all details can be made public. But some details should be reported to calm down the public because people are deeply concerned and alarmed.

We therefore expect that within a reasonable period, the Foreign Ministry and the U.S. Embassy will release communiques that will let us learn more details about the case. We expect the U.S. Government to provide the indispensable explanation of mistaken behavior by an official who stomped on all international rules regulating the conduct of embassy officials.

Coca Production, Shining Path Links Evaluated

PY1802133293

[Editorial Report] Lima EXPRESO in Spanish on 5 February, page A10, carries an article by Luis Guillermo Novoa, the first in a series entitled "Coca Report," on the interrelationship of coca production with drug trafficking, police interdiction, and the role of the Armed Forces.

The reporter describes his trips with the support of the Air Force by helicopter, plane, and on foot to more than 150 strategic points in a large area from Tarapoto to Tingo Maria. The article says the jungle is like another country where Shining Path leader Abimael Guzman created "agricultural communes" in 1987 "to dominate the population while creating a tactical alliance with traffickers."

The article says the central jungle region continues to be the Shining Path's main stronghold where it operates with great flexibility. It tolerates UN projects in Aucayacu where there are more than 30 committees for producing coffee, cocoa, and achene. The Shining Path

also accepts and allows Father Pablo Felly, a Canadian priest, to carry out his health training program because Felly was part of the "anti-Spike" movement in 1989.

The people of Tingo Maria and Tocache never talk about "terrorists" but about the "movement," "companeros," and "the party." The Shining Path "has a high level of support from the population, in contrast to other parts of the country where the people are organized in peasant defense patrols. Some people say that the Shining Path defends them from the police and the DEA."

During the week from 4 to 10 January the Armed Forces carried out their most successful operation by discovering a large Shining Path arsenal on a hill overlooking the Huallaga and Aguaytia rivers. The camp was located in the northern hill of Boqueron del Padre Abad, an impregnable place that is always covered with fog which the Armed Forces had never reached before. From this hill the Shining Path dominated the highway to Pucallpa on one side and the Marginal highway on the other side in the Tingo Maria and Aucayacu regions. The Army jurisdiction reaches the western slope of this hill, which is called the Huallaga Front. The Navy jurisdiction, known as the Ucayali Front, reaches the eastern slope of the hill. The Shining Path camp was only taken after dissidents of this organization showed the way.

The coca growing area has expanded since the Shining Path entered Upper Huallaga and Central Huallaga in 1980. The Shining Path consolidated its position in 1987 through the control of coca production. "The reason why the measures to stop coca production through civilian, police, and DEA actions failed was undoubtedly because the problem of trafficking was separated from the development of the Shining Path in the region. This is really a single problem."

Abimael Guzman had a project for the jungle. He eliminated competition from Colombian traffickers who terrorized coca growers. He had them killed and made a pact with the Colombian bosses to become intermediaries between coca growers and the Colombian buyers. Guzman believed the coca business would end by 1992 or 1993 because U.S. consumers would replace cocaine with heroine, adding that Colombians were already planting poppies in their country.

In Upper Huallaga, from Tingo Maria to Picota, there are at least 100,000 hectares of coca. There are new coca plantations in Ponaza, and Biabo in the Central Huallaga region. Coca is also found in the Sisa valley, in Saposoa, Sauce, and Chazuta on the road to Yurimaguas. There is also coca in Rioja and Moyobamba. This zone covers an additional 80,000 hectares. Other regions with coca are: Aguaytia with 30,000 hectares; Quillabamba in Cusco with 40,000 hectares; Satipo zone with 20,000 hectares; Sandia and Carabaya in Puno Department with 10,000 hectares; and Jaen and San Ignacio with 20,000 hectares. The complete picture shows a coca growing area of about 300,000 hectares.

Failure of Coca Eradication Viewed

PY1902005893

[Editorial Report] Lima EXPRESO in Spanish on 6 February publishes on page A10 a 1,800-word article by Luis Guillermo Novoa, the second in a series entitled "Coca Report," on narcodollars and the failure of the coca eradication program.

The article notes that the large Huallaga region, representing more than 1.2 million hectares of the best soil in Peru, produces most of the revenue of the national economy. "White coca paste produces about $3.68 billion with a minimum added value of $3 billion, of which $530 million represents the price of coca that reportedly goes directly to 140,000 peasants."

The article adds: "Although it is true that prices have dropped, especially the price of white coca paste—its price in 1978 was $5,000 per kilogram, and is now only $800—even at current prices one hectare of cultivated coca (2,000 kilograms of coca) represents $16,000 in white coca paste. For its substitution to be convincing for the peasants, growing another crop should come close to that amount; otherwise it will not be attractive for the peasants who process the paste."

The truth is that coca growing and commercialization have increased. The area cultivated by a family has increased from 1 to 1.5 hectares, and the commercialization of cocaine base and paste is being carried out without intermediaries. The peasants themselves are processing it, and the Colombians come in small airplanes to retrieve it, notes the article.

The articles goes on to say that "the coca eradication program has categorically and definitely failed. It is now necessary to make a new and strict evaluation of the causes of the successes and failures of the project. Interdiction has also failed. Only some positive aspects have been seen since the Air Force took control over airports and the airspace six months ago."

The strategy "of isolating Shining Path and thus gaining the support of the population, or of not persecuting coca growers so as to prevent them from seeking protection from Shining Path—as proposed by General Arciniega—has failed, not because it was bad or wrong, but simply because there was nothing to offer the peasants. The Shining Path did make an offer: to manage their business and persuade them to process coca themselves in order to multiply their value and income. It is almost a capitalist joint venture [preceding two words in English] implemented by Abimael Guzman's followers, which produces more than the $30 million that is reported. They are real partners, and they are not satisfied with small profits."

Business is good, and the results are easy to see, says the article. The dollars are taken by the banks from the hundreds of people who come to Lima by air and surface. For example, the chief of the Tingo Maria air group said that the banks declare about $500,000 daily to be sent to

Lima. Realizing that there are flights from Tocache, Pucallpa, Tarapoto, Tingo Maria, Satipo, and Yurimaguas, one can easily calculate that about $2 million a day is legally sent to Lima. This represents $700 million a year.

Since the Peruvian Air Force took over control of the airports and the airspace, drug traffickers have stopped flying during the day, and have begun flying only at night using airplanes equipped with radar and automatic piloting, as well as sophisticated ground radio control equipment. A new strategy must therefore be drawn up by the U.S. Government as part of the Antidrug Agreement—otherwise, narcoterrorism will win one more battle in this bloody and wicked war.

Petroperu, U.S. Firm Sign Drilling Contract

PA1902153593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Feb 93

[Text] The State Petroleum Agency [Petroperu] has signed a contract with the U.S. consortium Great Western for the exploitation of Plot 65 in the Amazonian jungle. The operation will require an investment of at least $23 million. Petroperu president Jaime Quijandria has said that with an annual investment of $144 million, the country will become self-sufficient. The ceremony to sign the document was also attended by Daniel Hokama, energy and mines minister.

According to the contract, Great Western, Limited must make an investment of at least $23 million during the prospecting stage in Plot 65 in the country's northern jungle. In turn, the Peruvian Government, through the Central Reserve Bank, will guarantee that up to 100 percent in foreign currency, according to the contract's terms, will be freely, directly, and immediately available for the contractor. During this official event, the president of Petroperu tacitly extended an invitation for oil investment.

[Begin Quijandria recording] We must express the need for these activities to increase. A working commission made up of officials of the Energy and Mines Ministry and Petroperu a few weeks ago determined that in order for the country to become self-sufficient, we require $144 million annually in investments from 1993 to the year 2000. To date, we only have $33 million in investment for this period, hence the need to have $110 million annually in investments. [end recording]

After the public event, Minister Hokama said a project is being drawn up for presentation at the Democratic Constituent Congress to increase investment based primarily on a price policy and a new legal framework.

[Begin recording] [Hokama] We wish to redefine the state's role in the hydrocarbons field. We also wish to outline a different tax system and encourage investment.

[Unidentified reporter] Will fuel prices be increased again?

[Hokama] On a short term basis, no. [end recording]

Uruguay

Executive Branch Prepares Bill on Military

PY1802173793 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 18 Feb 93

[Text] The executive branch will soon send to Congress a draft bill modifying the Military Organizational Law seeking to increase the influence of the government branches, that is, the executive and legislative branches, in the guidelines of the military leadership.

The draft bill proposes establishing a promotion system for high-ranking military officers, similar to the one in force prior to the 1973 coup. The bill also suggests redefining the concept of specific competence and professionalism of the Uruguayan Armed Forces, considering the disappearance of a bipolar world following the dismantling of the former USSR.

Another factor is the economic structure, considering the new models in the rest of the world which were defined by the Pentagon in the past two years. [sentence as heard] The Uruguayan Government estimates that the current level of expenses incurred in logistic support material is unrealistic since the current trend is to carry out joint international operations, like those coordinated by the United Nations.

These concepts, operational costs, transformation of promotion mechanism, and the need to adapt to the new operational mechanisms in the world, together with the disappearance of a bipolar world, are the main points of the draft bill that the executive branch will send to Congress.

Suriname

Government Abolishes 25 Feb 'Revolution' Holiday

PM1802125093 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 16 Feb 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Suriname Scraps Commemoration of Revolution"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 16 Feb—On the orders of the Surinamese Government 25 February, the day on which the 1980 coup d'etat is commemorated, is no longer a national holiday. This has been announced by Vice President J. Ajodhia in a letter to a number of ministers and the state media. Ajodhia writes that marking the day on which the "revolution" stemming from the first military coup has been celebrated since 1980 must be seen as a "party political matter." Army commander B. Sital, head of the committee which arranges commemoration of the coup, described 25 February as "a day of such historical value that it cannot be abolished by any government at the stroke of a pen."